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2 November 1983

SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT

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FRASER-APPOINTED ENVOYS BEING REPLACED BY LABOR GOVERNMENT

Melbourne THE AGE in English 1 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Michelle Grattan]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — Two more Fraser Government political appointments are being recalled from their overseas posts.

They are the Australian Consul-General in Los Angeles, Mr John McLeay, 61, and the High Commissioner to New Zealand, Mr Jim Webster, 58. Both were Junior Ministers in the Fraser Government before being posted overseas to create vacancies in the Ministry.

The High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Sir Victor Garland, will also be replaced later this year. Sir Victor, who has been in London since 1981, is also a former Fraser Government Minister.

Mr Webster, who was a National Party senator, has been in New Zealand since early 1980; Mr McLeay has been in Los Angeles since April 1981. It is believed that Mr Webster sought a short extension, but he has already had at least a normal length posting, if not rather longer.

The Labor Party in Parliament last year attacked Mr McLeay, accusing him of acting dishonestly in a property transfer which took place while he was a Minister.

Senator Bulkus (ALP, SA) said at the time that a statement of claim lodged in the South Australian Supreme Court stated that Mr McLeay, as a director of a family company, had breached the Companies Act of South Australia in a transaction involving the payment of \$18,000 for land valued at \$250,000. Senator Bulkus said Mr McLeay should be recalled.

There was no information last night on possible replacements for Mr McLeay and Mr Webster. Sir Victor is to be replaced by a deputy secretary in the Foreign Affairs Department, Mr Alf Parsons.

There is no word on the future of another former Liberal Minister, Sir Robert Cotton, who is Ambassador to the United States.

PARACHUTE TRAINING UNIT BEING MOVED TO NAVAL AIR STATION

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 1 Sep 83 pp 1, 2

[Article by Peter Young]

[Text]

THE Federal Government is shortly to announce the transfer of the army's parachute training school from the RAAF base at Williamtown to the naval air station at Nowra.

The move is seen as the first phase of the possible relocation of three units to Nowra. This will make good the promise made by the Minister for Defence, Mr Scholes, that the air station will be maintained as a working defence establishment following the disbandment of the navy's fixed-wing squadrons.

No firm decision has been made beyond the move of the parachute school, which has long been looking for a new base to make room for the incoming F-18 Hornets at Williamtown, but it is known that the Government is examining relocation of two other units.

These are the RAAF's Number 38 Squadron at present based at Richmond, NSW, which operates Caribou aircraft, and the Canberra-based Number 5 Squadron which operates Iroquois helicopters.

The prime role of the Caribou squadron is army support. Number 35 Squadron at Townsville looks after the Queensland-based Deployment Force and 6th Brigade (Brisbane), while the 38th at Richmond supports the Sydney-based 1st Brigade and meets army tasks in the southern States.

To relocate Number 38 Squadron would make sense in that it could share piston engine maintenance facilities at the air station in support of its Pratt and Whitney power plants, while it could support both Sydney and Melbourne troops as well as those at Duntroon.

Its presence at Nowra could also provide support for the parachute school.

To move the helicopter squadron, which trains all helicopter pilots for the navy and air force, would be a much simpler decision.

The Nowra base and surrounding country side is ideal for training and already has training areas. Any such relocation would ease the pres-

sure and problems of having training based at Fairbairn, which shares the strip with commercial airlines.

The squadron is also responsible for search-and-rescue helicopters at various RAAF bases and, in addition to the benefits of a safer training area and exploitation of the existing helicopter maintenance facilities at Nowra, could also join with the Navy Grumman Trackers to form the nucleus of a central search-and-rescue and surveillance group.

Each of these options has been rumored for some time, but there has been a reluctance to publicise them because concern might be felt among service families in these units.

However, Nowra presents itself as a most pleasing area for many service families, and it is known that Mr Scholes is anxious that every facility should be given to any unit relocated to the area.

From a purely military point of view, the proposals make eminent common sense.

PATROL BOATS OFFERED TO NEIGHBORING PACIFIC NATIONS

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 30 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Marsali Mackinnon]

[Text]

AUSTRALIA has offered to build a small fleet of patrol boats at a cost of up to \$30 million to protect neighboring Pacific nations from intruders poaching in their fishing zones.

The Defence Minister, Mr Scholes, announced the proposal yesterday, neatly timed to coincide with the opening of the two-day South Pacific Forum in Canberra.

He said Australia had made the offer under its \$46 million Defence Co-operation Program "to fulfil one of Australia's responsibilities to the area in which we live".

Mr Scholes said Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands had expressed interest in taking delivery of such patrol boats to police their waters, and two other Pacific nations "who I'd prefer not to name at this stage" were also keen.

Many Pacific island nations do not have any capacity to police their waters.

Mr Scholes said he thought Australia would be asked to provide "five or six vessels" at a cost of between \$1 million and \$6 million each.

He said he did not think the 30m-class patrol boats would have any military role in the Pacific Ocean.

Many Pacific island nations have complained strongly about poaching in the waters of their 200km economic zones by countries including Japan and the United States.

"The type of boat would need to be a vessel which was not over-sophisticated, reasonably cheap to operate, and capable of being maintained in the islands themselves," Mr Scholes said.

He ruled out the use of Australian servicemen on the boats, but said the Australian military forces would train islanders to man them.

"Once a proposal is developed, it will obviously go to

public tender," Mr Scholes said.

"We estimate it could take about 12 months to train the islanders, so the boats could be delivered and ready for action by late 1984-early 1985."

Mr Scholes said the type of armaments to be carried by the boats would have to be decided in consultation with Pacific nations.

Mr Scholes ruled out any suggestion of mutual defence pacts between Australia and its Pacific neighbors.

"Mutual defence pacts are highly unlikely and they are probably irrelevant in the current circumstances," he said.

SOUTH KOREAN TRADE DELEGATION WORRIED ABOUT 'IMBALANCE'

Melbourne THE AGE in English 27 Aug 83 p 19

[Text]

A South Korean trade delegation has expressed serious concern over a widening trade imbalance in Australia's favor.

In a communique issued after talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister, Mr Bowen, the Koreans sought introduction of measures to narrow the gap which has widened in recent months.

They expressed particular interest in expanding exports of textiles, clothing and footwear as well as iron and steel products, toys, machinery, electrical and electronic products, tyres and tubes and plastic products.

Concern was also expressed over recent decisions to impose duties on Korean exports of passenger car tyres and PVC resin, and the inquiry into the dumping of high-voltage power transformers.

The delegation, led by Commerce and Industry Minister Kim Dong-Whie, was taking part in the thirteenth round of annual Ministerial trade talks between Australia and Korea.

In a statement Mr Bowen said both sides had agreed that the potential for expanding trade and economic co-operation between the two countries appeared particularly attractive.

Trade between Australia and Korea reached \$1126 million in 1982-83. Korea is ranked fifth among Australia's markets, second in Asia after Japan, and was the destination for \$833 million of Australian exports last financial year.

Australian imports from Korea over the same period were valued at \$293 million.

Mr Bowen said: "During discussions I registered Australia's desire for continuity and stability in those Korean markets where we have already proved to be competitive and reliable suppliers, and for expanded opportunities to compete in other areas, particularly wheat.

"Minister Kim expressed Korea's interest in further access to the Australian market for a range of light and heavy industrial products as well as a desire for Korean companies to participate in Australian development projects."

HAWKE PROMISES REVIEW OF TRADE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 27 Aug 83 p 15

[Article by Patrick Walters]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — Australia's trading relationship with Japan was undergoing fundamental change and future growth would require a more constructive hard-nosed approach, the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, warned yesterday.

Mr Hawke, addressing the Australian Institute of International Affairs' 50th anniversary, said that while Australia could expect to remain an important supplier of energy and raw materials, expectations would have to become more realistic.

"The complacency of the past, engendered as it may have been by the extent and depth of the Japanese relationship, must now give way to a constructive exploration of ways of carrying the relationship forward," the Prime Minister said.

Mr Hawke said the recent pressure applied by some of Japan's

major trading partners to have it switch its buying pattern were of particular concern to Australia.

"Should Japan succumb to such pressure the implications for Australia's beef, steelmaking, raw material and energy exports would be extremely serious.

"A virtual transformation of the economic basis of the relationship has occurred, few have recognised it, even fewer have planned for it. A revitalisation is now needed."

Mr Hawke said Australia must broaden its trade interests in Japan by seeking out new trading opportunities in the fastest growing sectors of the Japanese economy.

The prospects for future growth in Australia's energy exports would depend on a sustained recovery in the international economy.

Mr Hawke told the conference that the strength and significance of Australia's relationship with Japan should not be underestimated. But the achievements of the past carried no guarantee of being sustained in perpetuity.

He said Australia welcomed

Japan's willingness to play an increasingly active role in the political and economic affairs of the Pacific region.

As far as defence was concerned, Australia would continue to encourage Japan's willingness to make a non-military contribution to regional security.

Mr Hawke said Australia was now working hard to establish support for global and regional disarmament agreements and a comprehensive ban on the testing of nuclear weapons.

● Professor Hedley Bull, Professor of International Relations at Oxford, told the conference that the Western nations were in large part responsible for the deterioration of international order in the 1980s.

He said the policies of the West, especially of the US, had been negative, defensive and short-sighted.

"The problem America presents for us is not the relative decline of its power but the decline of its capacity for sound judgment and leadership," he said.

ESSO-BHP TO EXPORT OIL TO JAPAN, S. KOREA WITH GOVERNMENT OK

Melbourne THE AGE in English 25 Aug 83 p 19

[Article by Matthew Stevens]

[Text]

Esso-BHP will be exporting oil to Japan and South Korea within three months, following the Federal Government's decision to approve the export of indigenous crude oil.

A spokesman for BHP said yesterday that the Bass Strait partners will be shipping up to 10,000 barrels a day by November.

But the crude oil available for export will come from the excess production from the 'old' oil fields, rather than from the Fortescue field, the company said.

BHP said yesterday there was little chance that production from the Fortescue field would reach anything like the 18 million barrels the Government has set as the ceiling for production from the field for the domestic market.

Although it had been planned that Fortescue would be running at more than 18 million barrels for the financial year, the program has been held up significantly by a strike on the rig which has

cut production from an projected 77,000 barrels a day to about 10,000 barrels a day. (The 18 million barrels limit represents about 49,000 barrels a day).

The export crude will come from the production above the 385,000 barrels a day ceiling the Government has put on the 'old' oil fields.

The spokesman for BHP said the decision to allow export of excess oil production would solve the current problem with the ability of the local refineries to absorb local production without discouraging the search for new oil.

But the Government's condition that the export oil be available for the spot market only has caused concern at BHP.

The company will be continuing its talks with the Government with a view to convincing it of the necessity of long term contracts for the crude oil.

PETROLEUM COMPANIES ABANDONING DRILLING EXPLORATION RIGS

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by David Erskine]

[Text]

Esso BHP is ending a two-year-old contract with an exploration rig in Bass Strait because of the six-week strike by drillers.

In addition, Phillips Petroleum is expected to cancel its contract for the drilling rig Diamond M Epoch - also affected by the strike.

And Shell has already decided to cancel its contract for the drilling rig Nymphaea.

This means that all three rigs will soon be idle without prospect of work.

The strike has also halted drilling of production wells on the recently installed platforms Cobia, West Kingfish and Fortescue.

The remaining crew on the production platforms have now been stood down.

Esso BHP said yesterday that it had given 30 days' notice to the owner of the semi-submersible drilling rig Southern Cross before cancellation, a move necessary under the terms of the contract.

The move is a big setback for the oil industry.

Both companies have been prolific explorers, having used the Southern Cross for two years to search for oil at a cost of almost \$90 million.

They had planned to keep using the rig until mid-1984.

The Australian oil industry has already been affected by a major decline in exploration activity and can ill afford the additional loss.

The strike involves about 300 members of the Australian Workers Union. It is over two issues: severance pay when the rig contracts run out, and parity with the workers on the Bass Strait oil production platforms.

After a series of discussions, the employers agreed to pay each driller a lump sum when the rig contract expires.

The amount would be related to the time spent working on the rig.

But the union now appears to want payment for every member, even if they are dismissed when the rig contract is running.

Esso and BHP have lost about \$6 million because of

the strike and will continue to pay around \$150,000 a day until the Southern Cross contract ends.

In an effort to get the men back to work, telegrams were sent to the 250 rig employees yesterday telling them to return to work by next Tuesday or face dismissal.

However, even if the men return, it seems unlikely that the oil companies will renew their contract for the rigs.

The number of people affected by the rig dispute, directly and indirectly, is about 600.

They include workers on support ships, shore base operations and helicopters who provide the necessary back-up during drilling operations.

Workers on the Nymphaea were dismissed following Shell's cancellation of the contract.

Overseas oil companies, who contribute more than half the country's exploration budget, will be extremely hesitant to risk further investment faced with the prospect of such militant action.

NEW FEDERAL LAW EXPANDS PROTECTION OF BARRIER REEF

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 1 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Peter Gibson]

[Text]

THE Federal Government yesterday banned oil drilling on the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Queensland.

By the end of the year, almost the entire Reef will be under the protective cloak of a marine national park.

Announcing the changes, the Minister for the Environment, Mr Cohen, said: "To dispel any fears that oil drilling could occur in those parts of the region not yet included in the marine park, regulations have been made to take effect from 1 September 1983 prohibiting oil drilling in those areas. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act prohibits all drilling in the marine park."

Mr Cohen said he had ordered the speeding up of work to declare the park.

He said 99 per cent of the Reef would eventually be included in the park.

The declaration of three more large sections of the park yesterday now means 80 per cent of the Reef is already protected by federal legislation.

The move yesterday in-

creases the park area more than five times.

This was achieved through the inclusion of the far northern area and offshore parts of the central and southern areas of the region.

It added to the previously declared Capricornia, Cairns and Cormorant Pass sections.

"In line with the Government's intention to have the entire Great Barrier Reef included in the marine park by the end of 1983, I have directed the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to provide reports by the end of September 1983 on declaration of the remainder of the region," Mr Cohen said.

"Based on the Government's policy that the marine park should extend to the western boundary of the Great Barrier Reef region on the Queensland mainland coast where necessary to protect areas of ecological significance, it is likely that by the end of the year 99 per cent of the region will be included in the marine park."

The declaration of the new areas and the move to have 99 per cent of the Reef in the park by next year has the full support of the Queensland Government.

EXTRA RANGERS NEEDED TO PROTECT TASMANIA WILDERNESS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 26 Aug 83 p 5

[Article by Simon Balderstone]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — Extra rangers could be employed almost immediately to patrol the South-West Tasmania World Heritage area, following the destruction of a 3000-year-old Huon pine and threats to dynamite or burn other heritage areas.

The Federal Department of Home Affairs and Environment is studying ways of reaching an agreement with the Tasmanian Government for more rangers — Commonwealth or Tasmanian — to go into the area as an interim measure until a full-scale plan of management is adopted.

But jurisdiction problems apparently remain, and Commonwealth financing may have to be used to employ Tasmanian rangers.

The Minister for Home Affairs and Environment, Mr Cohen, is about to put to Federal Cabinet a submission by parks and wildlife

officers on a plan of management, but officials are concerned that more destruction could take place during the busy summer period of visitors before the plan takes effect in the fire-prone area.

In another conservation development yesterday, Mr Cohen confirmed that grants to voluntary conservation organisations are to increase to \$640,000 in 1983-84, a 78 per cent increase over the amount allocated in each of the past four years. Mr Cohen said he would announce shortly the allocation of grants to organisations.

The director of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, Dr Bob Brown, met departmental officers and Mr Bob Hogg, the senior advisor to the Prime Minister, yesterday to discuss the damage in the heritage area and to push for added protection measures. He said later that the fire in the tree had apparently made the Government aware of the need for early action on rangers.

NEAR-RECORD WHEAT CROP OF 17.7 MILLION TONS PREDICTED

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 31 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Alan Yates]

[Text]

THE rural sector is poised for substantial economic recovery, according to a government report which predicts a near-record wheat crop this year — more than double last year's drought-affected crop.

In a crop report issued yesterday, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics predicts the production of a 17.7 million-tonne wheat crop, second only to the 18.1 million tonnes harvested in 1978-79.

But what will provide joy for the farmers is the prediction that, even allowing for bad weather, final production should only vary by 15 per cent.

Last year, farmers planted 11.5 million hectares of wheat, but the crops were stricken — first by heavy rains early in the season, then by drought.

The final production figure of 7.8 million tonnes caused severe problems, both on the domestic market (including the supply of fodder to starv-

ing animals) and in honoring international contracts.

But the bureau's report indicates that even with unfavorable weather conditions, we would still be left with a national wheat crop in excess of 15 million tonnes.

The forecast also includes the warning that some crops might suffer from disease, particularly those in Queensland and northern NSW, which were affected by the heavy rains and floods a few months ago, and in Victoria.

The prediction is virtually the same as that issued by the Australian Wheat Board last week, which expects a 16 to 18 million-tonne crop.

It provides good news for farmers, as record crop plantings were sown this year as a way of lifting the rural sector out of drought-induced financial problems.

About 13.1 million hectares of wheat were planted this year by farmers as a means of gaining quick revenue while

the national sheep and cattle herds were restocked after the drought.

The report also said additional late plantings had been possible in Queensland and South Australia.

Other crops are also expected to record significant production increases on last year.

This year's barley crop is estimated at 4.1 million tonnes, and oat production at 1.9 million tonnes — both more than double last year's crops.

State wheat production estimates are: NSW six million tonnes; Victoria 3.5 million; Queensland 1.6 million; South Australia two million; Western Australia five million.

Weather conditions through September and October, the critical spring development stage, could have a marked effect on the final production figures, which would lead to the 15 per cent variation in either direction, the report said.

VETERANS REAFFIRM SUPPORT OF PANCASILA

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 23 Aug 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Veterans Legion of the Republic of Indonesia (LVRI) has reaffirmed its policy in the political sector by declaring that it continues to recognize and implement the Pancasila as the only ideological foundation of the state.

The LVRI feels that the Pancasila, as the only ideological foundation of the state, represents a truth that has become the foundation or support for the mental attitudes and ideals on which the entire nation bases in matters that affect the direction or influence patterns of state and public life.

The LVRI, enunciating its policies in its resolution No Kep-05/DPP/III/IV/8/1983, declared that within the framework of national development based on the Pancasila, and as a component of Indonesia's national forces, it is determined to remain a force for development and to have aspirations in the political sector.

The resolution, which consists of seven sections, was approved at the third plenary session of the LVRI executive council on 10 and 11 August 1983. The resolution also states that the LVRI joins with all the Indonesian people in promoting unity and integrity for the achievement of national stability.

Younger Generation

Another resolution produced by the plenary session deals with the LVRI's policy on the development of the younger generation. The LVRI supports a conscious and planned educational effort that is wide in scope and that is aimed at developing the individuality and capability of young people based on the Pancasila.

The objective in the development of the younger generation, according to resolution No Kep-04/DPP/III/IV/8/1983, is to form Pancasila cadres who will continue the national struggle and national development. This will be done by encouraging greater devotion to God, by inculcating a state and national consciousness, by strengthening the spirit of idealism and dedication and the feeling of self-respect, by strengthening individuality and self-discipline,

by promoting moral values, by promoting physical fitness and creativity, by developing qualities of leadership, scientific abilities, skills and a pioneering spirit, and by encouraging greater participation in state and national life and in the implementation of national development.

This resolution, which has six sections, also says that in developing national resilience special vigilance must be maintained against problems that continue to pose a threat and that cause moral decline. In particular, vigilance must be maintained against the use of narcotics and marihuana, against foreign cultures that are not compatible with or in conflict with the Indonesian national identity, and against juvenile delinquency.

5458

CSO: 4213/560

PREJUDICE AGAINST CITIZENS OF FOREIGN DESCENT

Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian 26 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] K. Sindhunata, SH, the head of the Board for the Promotion of National Unity (Bakom PKB), says that there is still a great deal of prejudice against Indonesian citizens of foreign descent, and especially against those of Chinese descent, in public life.

Following a 1-hour meeting with Hari Suharto, the head of the Management Board for Training Courses on Patterns for the Application and Practice of the Principles of the Pancasila (BP-7), at the Department of Foreign Affairs on Thursday, Sindhunata said that there were a number of reasons for this prejudice, one of which is the fierce competition in the economic sector.

He observed that persons of Chinese descent usually have a more highly developed business acumen than their native Indonesian brothers.

He said that the existence of this prejudice was an obstacle to the assimilation of the native and nonnative communities and to efforts to establish cordial relations between them.

Sindhunata told reporters that much progress is being made in the assimilation process, especially among the younger generation. He noted that many young businessmen are cooperating in commercial ventures.

Regarding persons of foreign descent who are reluctant to leave the business world, Sindhunata declared that many citizens of Chinese descent want to enter government service or to join the armed forces but they refrain from doing so because of psychological blocks and uncertainty about their future. Sooner or later these psychological blocks must be 100 percent eliminated, he said.

Hari Suharto said that the BP-7 would give Indonesian citizens of foreign descent every opportunity to participate in courses on the practice and application of the principles of the Pancasila, just as it did all other citizens, since this was consistent with the message of the people and the 5-point program of the Fourth Development Cabinet. "Upgrading courses on the practice and application of the principles of the Pancasila are an ideal means of ensuring the success of the program for the assimilation of native

and nonnative communities," he said. Hari Suharto was accompanied by his deputy for training, Tulus Supranoto.

Drs Junus Jahya, Drs Suwarno, Wibisono, Drs Leo Rahadian and H. Sudradjat from the Bakom PKB also were present at the meeting.

5458

CSO: 4213/560

VALUE OF NONOIL EXPORTS UP, OIL EXPORTS DOWN

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 23 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] Indonesia's nonoil exports for the first 5 months of 1983 were valued at \$1.84 billion, an increase of 13.98 percent over the same period last year. However, the value of all exports (including oil) for the period from January through May 1983 was down more than 10 percent.

Data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics on the export of a number of leading commodities show that the value of all exports for the January-May 1983 period was \$7.997 billion, with exports of oil and oil byproducts valued at \$5.147 billion, natural gas at \$1.01 billion, and nonoil commodities at \$1.84 billion.

The value of all exports was down 10.51 percent from the same period last year. The drop resulted from a sharp decline in the value of oil and oil byproduct exports (17.27 percent) and a decline in the value of natural gas exports (8.21 percent), while the value of nonoil exports rose only 13.98 percent. The decline in the value of oil and oil byproduct exports was caused not only by a 9.51 percent drop in the volume of these exports but also by the decline in the price of crude oil since March of this year.

Nonoil Exports

The national budget targets foreign exchange income from nonoil exports at \$4.2 billion, which is \$300 million more than was realized from these exports last year. Nonoil commodities have become increasingly important to Indonesia since the fall of the price of oil on international markets last March. It is hoped that nonoil exports can be used to help make up the loss in foreign exchange from oil exports.

There was a strong increase in the earnings of nonoil exports during the January-May 1983 period. Nonoil exports in this period were valued at \$1.84 billion compared to \$1.614 billion in the same period last year. This increase in the receipt of export foreign exchange is assumed to be due to not only to the improvement in prices for several commodities but also to the increase in the volume of nonoil exports. The volume of all nonoil exports in the first 5 months of 1983 was up 49 percent from the same period last year.

Traditional commodities, such as rubber, coffee and wood, continue to be the largest earners of export foreign exchange, however data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics show a strengthening in the export position of some nontraditional commodities, including bauxite, canned fish, and canned fruits and vegetables.

Important Commodities

Wood earned more foreign exchange than any other commodity. Exports of sawn timbers, logs, plywood and other types of processed wood produced earnings of \$433.6 million, an increase of 17.74 percent over last year.

Wood was followed by rubber, which earned \$287.4 million and showed an increase of 12.9 percent. The increase in rubber prices on international markets since the beginning of the year was responsible for much of the increase in the foreign exchange earnings of this commodity, for the volume of rubber exports did not increase as much as their value. In the first 5 months of last year 332,095 tons of rubber were exported, and in the first 5 months of this year 355,598 tons. Thus the volume of rubber exports increased by only some 7 percent.

The volume of coffee exports increased by slightly more than 1 percent but their value increased by 26.5 percent to \$137.535 million. All coffee exports were in the form of coffee beans. Tin also is a good earner of foreign exchange and tin exports were valued at \$140.179 million. Even so, this was less than the value of tin exports last year.

There have been sharp increases in both the volume and the value of some non-oil exports. For example, exports of canned fish earned only \$240,000 last year but this year earnings jumped to \$1,119,000, an increase of 367 percent. This increase in earnings was due to the increase in the volume of canned fish exports, which rose 567 percent.

The volume of automobile tire exports rose 304 percent and the value of these exports increased 263 percent, from \$26,000 to \$94,000. Urea fertilizer and canned fruits and vegetables also experienced an increase of more than 100 percent in export earnings.

However, for the same period there were drastic declines in the export earnings of some commodities, including asbestos roofing, tuna, nickel ore, steel pipe, crackers, fruit extracts, tin, dried cassava, white pepper and black pepper.

5458

CSO: 4213/560

STANVAC RETURNED TO PERTAMINA, NOT TAKEN OVER

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 23 Aug 83 pp 1, 11

[Text] Minister and State Secretary Soedharmono has said that the Stanvac oil company was not taken over but was returned to Pertamina because its work contract had expired. The minister made this statement in his office today in response to a reporter's question.

"Its work contract expired and so it returned to Pertamina," he said. He also said that there is no need for Stanvac employees to be uneasy because Pertamina will use as many of them as it can. "Their affairs will become Pertamina's affairs, and Stanvac's equipment will become Pertamina's equipment," he said.

Some time ago Pertamina's executive director, Joedo Sumbono, said that notification of the expiration of Stanvac's contract was given a year ago. But Karamoy, a Stanvac official, said notification was given 3 months ago.

Lubricating Oil

In response to another question Soedharmono said that lubricating oil would be handled by Pertamina and there no need to worry about the matter.

He said that with Pertamina's production it would no longer be necessary to import lubricating oil. "I think that no more will be imported. There is enough within the country," he said.

Meanwhile, Joedo Sumbono said that with the completion of the Cilacap refinery, Pertamina would be able to produce all types of lubricating oil. The requirement for lubricating oil in Indonesia is about 220,000 tons a year, and the Cilacap refinery has a production capacity of about 260,000 tons a year. Why should we import lubricating oil when we can produce 260,000 tons a year and only need 220,000 tons a year, he asked.

In response to a question about the use of re-refined lubricating oil, Joedo said that the production stock was made up of all types of used oil, such as Castrol, Union Oil, Mesran and Caltex in grades SAE 30 and 40 and also diesel oil. He said that it was impossible for the refining plant to separate the different oils. "They all go in together and are used to produce lubricating

oil," he said. He noted that the contaminants can be removed from used oil but the viscosity is not retained.

Joedo said that the Indonesian public is not well-informed about the use of lubricating oil and that it is feared that many machines are being damaged out of ignorance.

5456

CSO: 4213/560

PLANNED EXPANSION OF OMBILIN COAL MINE

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 23 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] The Ombilin coal mine in Sawahlunto, West Sumatra plans to produce about 305,000 tons of coal in 1983. This is more than the 302,571 tons produced in 1982 but less than the target of 350,000 tons that was set at the beginning of 1983.

H. Sazili M., the head of the public relations office of the State Coal Company (PN Bata Bara), told a KOMPAS reporter in Jakarta that, "The production plan was cut back to adjust to developments in international coal markets."

The recession, the drop in coal prices in Australia and the sale of South African coal on the cash market had caused Indonesian coal exports to become sluggish at the beginning of the year and as a result planned production has been reduced, he said.

"Fortunately, the international coal market has been improving since June and we will be able to meet the new production plan," Sazili added.

He said that in addition to Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh and other old consumers, in the second half of this year South Korea will begin to import coal from Indonesia. In 1982 coal exports from Ombilin totaled 103,884 tons, or more than one-third of 1982's production.

Plans for 1985

Production at Ombilin will be increased in stages to meet a target of 750,000 tons a year in 1985. In this connection, a contract valued at 19,175,000 pounds sterling (28,762,500,000 rupiah) was signed in Jakarta last Friday by Engr Achmad Prijono, executive director of the State Coal Company, and M.J.A. Butcher, the president of Dowty Meco, Ltd of Great Britain

Of the amount of the contract, 14,737,822 pounds sterling (22,096,733,000 rupiah) will be in the form of export credit and the remaining 4,435,178 pounds sterling (6,665,727,000 rupiah) will be in the form of a grant-in-aid from the British government. The funds will be used to purchase a complete transportation system including conveyor belts, transportation equipment for use within the mine, equipment for the construction and support of mine tunnels,

ventilating equipment, pumps, work safety equipment, electrical and other equipment for use within the mine. Dowty Meco, Ltd also has signed a counter-purchase contract in the same amount as the export credit.

The British government also will provide aid in the amount of 470,000 pounds sterling (705,000,000 rupiah) for the training of staff and technical employees of the State Coal Company. Training will be on the use of equipment and the system of mining and will be given both at the mine and in Great Britain.

"We expect the equipment to begin arriving in Indonesia by the end of 1984 and to be ready for use in 1985," Sazili said.

Year 2000

The production capacity of the Ombilin mine will reach a level between 2.5 and 4 million tons of coal a year by the year 2000.

In the first phase of this program Japan is cooperating in the development of the Ombilin I open pit mine and a contract in the amount of 3.115 billion yen (12.46 billion rupiah) has been signed. A contract for the lease-purchase of the mining equipment was signed in June.

The second phase of the program involves the development of a shaft mine at the Ombilin II mine. Tenders have been invited but the contract has not yet been awarded. With the beginning of mining operations at the Ombilin II mine, it is expected that the State Coal Company will be able to produce 1,350,000 tons of coal a year in 1990. Of this amount, 750,000 tons will come from Ombilin I and 650,000 tons from Ombilin II.

Further expansion of the Ombilin project with the development of the Ombilin III mine will begin after 1990. Indonesia expects to carry out this project jointly with West Germany. When all three of the Ombilin projects are in production in the year 2000, production can reach 2.5 to 4 million tons a year.

5458

CSO: 4213/560

DK SAID TO BE AMBUSHING THEIR ALLIES

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Oct 83 p 6

[Text]

KHMER Rouge guerrillas have been ambushing, harassing and disarming the troops of their own partners in the anti-Vietnamese resistance coalition, according to a wide variety of sources.

In recent months these attacks have killed a total of at least 19 men and wounded many others in growing battlefield tension between the Khmer Rouge and their non-communist allies, resistance leaders disclosed.

In separate interviews at camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border and in Bangkok, leaders of both the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk indicated the Khmer Rouge now posed more of a day-to-day threat to them than the Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea.

"They are trying to destroy us bit by bit," Teap Bean, chief of staff of the Sihanoukist National Army (ANS), said last week at his military headquarters opposite Thailand's Surin Province.

"They are using all means against us — ambushes, mortar fire, mining our supply routes — to cut our progress in the interior," claimed the former general in Kampuchea's pre-1975 republican army.

He said the Khmer Rouge had become a major problem since June, when the fledgling Sihanoukist army began to make political inroads inside the western Kampuchean province of Siem Reap.

A well-informed foreign expert confirmed that ex-premier Pol Pot's forces were in effect holding the Sihanoukists under "house arrest" to limit the political progress the non-communists might otherwise make at the expense of the Khmer Rouge.

Dien Del, one of two vice presidents of the KPNLF and also a former republican army general, spoke of similar problems in an interview at his military headquarters opposite the Thai village of Ban Sa-ngae.

"The Khmer Rouge do not want us to operate inside the country. They want to keep the local population in their own

hands," said the front's former chief of staff, who is now the KPNLF executive committee member in charge of military affairs.

He said Khmer Rouge attacks on his forces seemed to be "systematic and generalised," by implication the result of a high-level policy decision, not misguided acts by local commanders.

These harassing actions had forced his front to alter its tactics, foregoing small patrols of less than 10 men for fear of ambush by Pol Pot troops, he said.

They had also impeded KPNLF's penetration of Siem Reap, scene of many of the reported incidents with the Khmer Rouge, who apparently regard it as their turf alone, Dien Del said.

At the nearby Nong Samet camp, Col Ear Chor Kim Meng, political adviser to the local KPNLF garrison, said the Khmer Rouge had been assaulting his men whenever they outnumbered them.

Both Dien Del and Teap Bean stressed that their troops were under strict orders to hold their fire when meeting the Khmer Rouge, unless the Pol Pot guerrillas fired on them first.

For his part, the Khmer Rouge ambassador to the Bangkok-based regional arm of the United Nations, Pech Bun Ret, flatly denied his forces were harassing their non-communist partners.

"It is not in our interest to do this. The Vietnamese, yes, they have an interest in doing so. But us, no," he told Agence France-Press.

The Khmer Rouge, Pech Bun Ret added, were even under orders not to fire on troops of the Heng Samrin regime since "they are Kampuchean too," and "Vietnam is the only enemy."

KPNLF president Son Sann initially confronted the Khmer Rouge over the battlefield problem at a special tripartite military meeting said to have been held on Kampuchean territory on March 19, according to several participants.

Until now, officials of all three factions had successfully suppressed news of the scope of their military friction. This was

mainly because each of them seems to perceive an overriding interest in furnishing the image of their so-called coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea.

Last week, however, non-communist resistance leaders apparently felt the Khmer Rouge had gone too far. As a result, details of eight incidents in which at least 19 soldiers were reported killed since June were cabled to Prince Sihanouk, who is currently attending the UN General Assembly session in New York.

One of the most recent assaults reportedly took place on September 16 about 10 kms inside Kampuchea from Tatum, the border enclave controlled by Prince Sihanouk's followers.

According to sources close to the prince, Khmer Rouge guerrillas encircled a 30-man

Sihanoukist patrol unit, forcing them to surrender 39 weapons, including AK-47 automatic rifles and B-40 rocket grenade launchers.

A week later on September 23, two soldiers of the Sihanoukist Moulinaka movement were blown up by mines allegedly planted on their known supply route by the Khmer Rouge, the prince's supporters charged.

Teap Bean and his deputy, Col King Men, said the latest incident took place on September 25 at 4.30 p.m.

They said Khmer Rouge guerrillas opened mortar and submachine gun fire on a group of 71 unarmed villagers travelling toward the border with a 12-man Sihanoukist escort, wounding five villagers, three of them women. — AFP

CSO: 4200/86

EDITORIAL: REAGAN POSTPONEMENT 'FOR THE BETTER'

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 5 Oct 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Postponement of Visit"]

[Text] The November visit of President Reagan to the Philippines is definitely off and it's probably for the better.

Reagan's plan to come to Manila as part of his Asian swing has been caught in a political tempest, both here and in the United States, arising from the Aquino assassination and the public unrest that followed. Whatever reasons there are now for scuttling the trip, they work to extricate the presidential visit from its uncomfortable situation and reserve it for more agreeable times.

The thought of the cancellation being an affront to the Philippine government, or to President Marcos personally, probably won't cross the minds of the nation's leaders. The local opposition and American critics surely have their own interpretations of Mr. Reagan's decision. So do others perhaps, based on their own political predispositions.

From what the official US announcement says, however, the cancellation--not only of the Manila visit but the Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur visits as well--has been dictated by circumstances beyond President Reagan's control.

A change in the schedule of the US Congress has been given as the reason for the American president's limiting his November tour to Japan and South Korea. His advisers believe it would be politically unwise for Reagan to be out of the country while congressional business matters were pressing.

Other considerations may have been taken into account in opting for a postponement of the visits to the three member-countries of the Association of southeast Asian Nations. There have been assurances given, however, that the postponement does not in any way reflect on the relations of these countries with the US. As for the Manila visit, it can perhaps wait for a more convenient time, hopefully in conjunction with President Reagan's trip to China next April.

CSO: 4200/83

PHILIPPINES

MUSLIMS FAIL TO TAKE FOREIGN MINISTRY TEST

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 8 Oct 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] A ranking foreign ministry official sought yesterday an investigation into why qualified Muslim applicants were not able to take the examinations for foreign service officers.

Ambassador Lininding Pangandaman, head of the ministry's Office for Middle East Affairs, said funds spent by the government in screening for Muslim aspirants went to waste because of the failure of the Muslim examinees to take the tests.

The examinations were given yesterday in five of the six scheduled places, including Manila, Cebu, Davao, Legazpi and Zamboanga. Only the examination in Marawi was not held.

A check showed that of the more than 40 Muslim applicants, only 14 passed the interview portion of the tests. However, they failed to take the written portion as the Mindanao State University failed to forward to the foreign ministry the application forms of the qualified Muslim applicants.

Pangandaman wanted to know the parties responsible for the default in sending the application forms to Manila.

CSO: 4200/88

BATASANG URGED TO RESTUDY ELECTION CODE

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 6 Oct 83 pp 1, 10

[Text] The Batasang Pambansa committee on revision of laws, codes, and constitutional amendments was urged yesterday to restudy the proposed new Election Code and remove any prohibition which may deprive the opposition of a sporting chance in next year's Batasan election.

Assemblyman and former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez asked the committee during yesterday's public hearing that the prohibition on guest candidacy and coalition of political parties be deleted from the proposed code.

He asked the committee to give the opposition the same benefits the Kilusang Bagong Lipuman (KBL) had enjoyed in 1978, when as an umbrella organization, it included candidates from different political parties and allowed them to retain their own party identity.

Pelaez said it would be impossible to compel the splintered opposition to unite now and be entitled to an inspector for purposes of the 1984 election.

Deputy Prime Minister Jose A. Roño, majority floor leader, agreed with Pelaez that no law can coerce the various opposition groups into forming one national opposition party.

The Pelaez proposal came after Bicol Saro President Monico Imperial asked that all existing regional parties which participated in the 1978 Batasan election be given inspectors to represent them in all electoral boards and committees.

Assemblymen Hilario Davide, Jr., (Pusyon Bisaya, Central Visayas) and Francisco S. Tatad (NP, Bicol region), who supported Pelaez's proposal, asked the committee to invite the heads of all legitimate national and regional opposition parties in the next hearing on Oct. 14.

Roño agreed and said that unless the committee knows what the opposition really wants, it would not be possible to come up with a fair and just decision.

CSO: 4200/83

COLUMNIST DISCUSSES ELECTION CODE FORMATION

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 10 Oct 83 p 40

[Article by Gualberto B. Lumauig in the "Looking Up" column: "New Election Code Tests Bipartisan Cooperation"]

[Text]

Forging an election law that not only codifies the substantive requisites for our people's democratic exercise of the sovereign right of suffrage but also guarantees practical effectivity through procedural statutes — may yet turn out to be the best proof of "political reconciliation" if Parliamentary Bill No. 2312 is finally hammered out on the anvil of bipartisan cooperation and meets popular satisfaction.

For the legislative draft, consisting of 34 chapters and 277 provisions, has reached its crucial exposure to public hearing and further Opposition scrutiny this coming Friday, October 14.

Tested provisions of past statutes, legal studies of electoral laws in America and other countries, the inputs of local public opinion articulated in various written suggestions and memoranda received by the Committee on Revision of Laws, Code and Constitutional Amendments have been incorporated into the bill.

In the words of former Vice President Emmanuel Pelayo, now a most respected member of the Batasang Pambansa, proving our generation's capacity to hold a truly free, clean and honest elections is the most effective step to the sincere national reconciliation advocated by political, religious, civic and even business elements today.

We can have elections, he said, where people's chosen candidates win — without the abhorred three G's: "gold, guns and goons."

The return of party-appointed election inspectors in the Board of Election Inspectors now called the Citizen's Election Committee in every voting center is embodied in Section 167 and 168 of Article XIII; so is the authority of accredited political parties and candidates to appoint watchers under Article XIV.

Political party is defined in Section 51 of Article VII may yet be improved to fit Philippine political conditions, and the guarantees against excesses in campaign expenses and abusive practices that marred past Philippine elections merit attentive consideration.

Article XVII provides for almost comprehensive guiding rules in the appreciation of the written ballot, as well as specific procedures designed to guard the integrity of the vote count and insure prompt publicity of election results in every voting center.

For most candidates, particularly promising new leaders, Article XVIII on Canvass and Proclamation is important — the stage when, the voters having cast their votes and all citizens election committees having sent in their count, the verdict of the elections is finally announced to the satisfaction of the people and all parties.

Elections are a human exercise and no election may turn out hundred per cent perfect, but post-election remedies for the aggrieved are in Articles XIX and XX, while Article XXI extensively specifies what acts constitute election offenses and, correspondingly, their grave penalties.

PHILIPPINES

IRANIAN EMBASSY LINKED TO STUDENT LEAFLETS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 Oct 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] The propaganda materials of an Iranian militant group, calling itself the Iranian Muslim Students of the Philippines, are being printed at the Iranian embassy in Makati, a former embassy official said yesterday.

Khasrow Menuchehr, Iran's former labor attache and now a United Nations refugee living in the Philippines, appeared at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports and confirmed the presence of a pro-Khomeini hit squad against anti-Khomeini Iranians.

He said the group has plans to launch sabotage attacks against the Philippine government, as revealed earlier in an ISMP manifesto now in the hands of the MECS.

The manifesto, signed by the ISMP, had as mailing address P.O. Box AC 226, Quezon City, listed under Ahmad Atrkar Roushand, a former student of the University of Manila and believed to be working now at the embassy.

Menuchehr turned over to Luis Manaois, chief of research and documentation of the Bureau of Foreign Students and Foreign Schools, other manifestos and copies of the ISMP's weekly journal, PAYA E VAHDAT, which, he said, were being printed at the embassy.

But the publications do not appear in the embassy's records, he said.

An English translation of a PAYA E VAHDAT editorial was on the assassination of ex-Sen Benigno S. Aquino Jr. and the Philippine government. Menuchehr said the ISMP has been feeding to newspapers in Iran wrong information regarding the present Philippine administration.

Menuchehr submitted to Manaois photographs of Iranian students who had participated in rallies and identified six Iranians, in addition to the 13 tagged by intelligence reports, as members of the hit squad.

He said "hardcore" pro-Khomeini students number from 10 to 20, but are able to compel other Iranian students to join their activities because, he said, "they have the support of the embassy."

MILITARY PERSONNEL ORDERED OUT OF CIVIL JOBS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 7 Oct 83 pp 1, 13

[Article by Jose de Vera]

[Text] Gen. Fabian C. Ver, Armed Forces chief of staff, has ordered the pullout of over 2,000 military personnel assigned in civil government agencies where they are performing non-military functions.

The recall order, according to Col. Servillano Templo, AFP spokesman, was given Wednesday to Brig. Gen. Catalino Villanueva, deputy chief of staff for personnel.

Villanueva was instructed to return the personnel to their respective mother units for retraining and eventual reassignment to the field.

However, Templo did not say the actual number of officers and personnel involved and why the move was taken.

Sources at the personnel division of the AFP general headquarters said there are more than 2,000 personnel involved from the four major services of the AFP--Army, Constabulary, Air Force, and Navy. They said some 800 personnel are immediately affected by the recall order.

The same sources said the AFP has been paying the salaries and allowances of these personnel and their continued stay in civil government agencies has been holding back the restructuring of the AFP. The formation of the AFP regional unified commands has also been affected, they said.

Villanueva said Ver has instructed the AFP chief of finance to terminate immediately the salary and allowances of those whose current detail has expired, has not yet been extended, and who have already been directed to return to their mother units. This will reportedly

force the pullout of the personnel concerned.

Villanueva said civilian agencies desiring to retain the services of military personnel in their offices should make proper representations with the AFP headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo. Civil agencies will thereafter pay the salaries of

the military personnel, it was learned. It was not clear, however, if the personnel involved will remain in the military and retain their ranks.

Among the military officers now working in civil government agencies are: Brig. Gen. Ramon Farelan, customs commissioner;

Navy Capt. Romeo L. Malig, Commanders Guillermo Parayno, Bienvenido Alano, and Capt. Rudy Campos, Bureau of Customs; Navy Commander J. Roilo Golez, postmaster-general; Navy Captains Primitivo Solia, Eduardo Ma. Santos, Maximo Dumlaog, Philippine Ports Authority; Col. Mariano R.

Santiago, director of the Bureau of Land Transportation, and his assistant, Lt. Col. Conrado K. Tolentino.

Exempted from the recall are officers and men on detail with civil government offices but are actually performing military-related functions. Among these offices are the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA), Ministry of National Defense, and Office of the President.

It will be recalled that shortly after the lifting of martial law on Jan. 17, 1981, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, on instructions of the President, ordered the recall, with some exemptions, of officers and men detailed with civil government agencies.

It was cited that "the martial law necessity for such detail" no longer existed with the lifting of martial law.

Some military officers said they prefer to work in their mother

units and discharge purely military duties because their stay in civilian offices interferes with their career promotions.

Other military officers said it is high time civil government agencies of government are demilitarized because the martial law necessity has long been gone.

Customs Commissioner Ramon J. Farolan said yesterday he was ready to leave his civilian post to return to the military service

upon receipt of official orders.

Farolan, 48, holds the rank of brigadier general and is attached with the Philippine Air Force.

"While I have not received official orders recalling me to the military organization, I'm ready to do so immediately," Farolan told the Bulletin Today.

"I'm a soldier and I have never looked upon my assignment in the Bureau of Customs as a permanent one,"

MARCOS FINES, WARNS OLONGAPO OFFICIAL

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 10 Oct 83 p 40

[Text]

President Marcos has imposed a fine equivalent to one month's pay and a warning of more severe punishment in the future for similar violations, on an assistant city fiscal for irregularity arising from an administrative case.

Fined and warned by the President, on recommendation of the Minister of Justice, was Assistant City Fiscal Santiago Maliwanag of Olongapo City.

The administrative case was filed by one Pedro Vergara against Maliwanag for alleged irregularity committed in connection with a criminal complaint assigned to the fiscal for preliminary investigation.

According to the records, Vergara filed a complaint against a certain Recto Amigable, as accessory to the crime of qualified theft, before the City Fiscal's Office of Olongapo, which was assigned to Maliwanag for preliminary investigation.

Although the investigation was terminated as early as July, 1969, respondent filed the corresponding information in court only in February, 1973, or after three years.

Respondent explained that the delay in the filing of the criminal information was caused by his sincere desire to help complainant because he deferred resolving the case believ-

ing there was insufficient evidence.

According to him, this was further aggravated by the volume of office work, and the fact that he was directed to proceed to Mindanao during December, 1969 to May 1970, to help in the investigation and prosecution of offenses committed in the 1969 national elections.

After due investigation, then Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos found the respondent fiscal "careless, to say the least, in not acting immediately on the subject case."

Abad Santos said that respondent fiscal could have dismissed the case as early as July, 1969,

when the investigation was terminated, after finding insufficiency of evidence against Amigable.

He added that the fact that respondent fiscal was given a special assignment in the South "cannot make him any less guilty for he reported back to his station in mid-1970, after which he had ample time to resolve the case."

ENTIRE PC UNIT RELIEVED FOR ABUSES

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 9 Oct 83 p 36

[Article by J. B. Dait, Jr]

[Text]

BANAUE, Ifugao —
The local constabulary detachment has been relieved in the wake of the recent killing of an Ifugao farmer by PC soldiers at the poblacion here.

The relief of the entire detachment and the assignment of a new contingent was announced by Captain Victorino Naces, commanding officer of the 130th PC company during a dialogue with the civilian population led by Mayor Ben Cappleman and attended by provincial officials and civic leaders.

Cappleman initiated the peace conference to mollify the civilian population and defuse the tension which arose as a result of the slaying Sept. 16 of Luis Batton, a farmer, by three soldiers under the influence of liquor.

It turned out during the free-wheeling dialogue that the cold-blooded killing of the Ifugao farmer was just one of a string of grievances harbored by the civilians against the PC unit assigned here.

The civilians, led by former Mayor Ruben Bahatan, Sangguniang Bayan member Rosa Tinapangan, and teachers, denounced the military men for indiscriminate firing of guns and unruly behavior which scared the people especially at night.

They also took to task the soldiers for not paying for goods they got from stores, not paying their jeepney fares and coercing local jeepney drivers to deliver them to their barracks after their drinking sprees.

The local police also got a severe drubbing from the citizenry. The INP was accused of laxity, ineptitude and failure to promptly respond to emergencies and calls for assistance.

Captain Naces, who assumed control of the local detachment recently, promised to prosecute the PC men involved in the killing of Batton. The suspects are PC trainee Roger Javier and CIC Wilfredo Abedes, and a still unidentified companion.

GOVERNMENT FLOATS ADDITIONAL TREASURY NOTES

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 7 Oct 83 p 9

[Text]

THE national government will borrow from the public another P200 million by selling the same amount of its five-year, nine percent treasury notes next Monday.

The new issue will bring to P800 million the total amount of treasury notes sold this year.

For 1983, the Monetary Board has authorized a total float of P1 billion of the T-notes.

Treasury notes are sold by the national government to raise funds for operations. They are direct and unconditional obligations of the government, bearing nine percent

interest coupon payable every six months. The notes mature in five years and are priced on a yield-to-maturity basis.

...

THE NOTES are eligible as collateral, as performance or judicial bond and for the rural sinking fund. They are also eligible as alternative investments for loanable funds not loaned out for the mandatory agricultural credit and agrarian reform loans required of banks.

While the 15 accredited government securities dealers (AGSDs) are expected to actively participate in

the auction to maintain the issue's sellout track record, the CB said the scheduled auction is open as well to all banks and non-banks, other institutions and individual investors.

Sealed tenders for the issue should be submitted on or before noontime of Oct. 12 at the CB securities servicing department. The tenders will be immediately opened by the auction committee composed of official representatives of the national treasury and the CB.

The treasury notes will be issued Oct. 19, 1983.

CSO: 4200/83

DEVALUATION BUOYS STOCK MARKET

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 10 Oct 83 p 10

[Article by Ruby Tiong Tan]

[Text] The devaluation of the peso last week to P14 to \$1 buoyed stock market turnover from one of the lowest volume recorded last Monday. Total volume registered 273,142,320 shares traded valued at P39,481,325.

Share prices also perked up due to the peso deterioration. Commercial-industrials, particularly San Miguel Corp., picked up against the trend of the market. Export-oriented mining issues also got a boost as copper seemed to turn around to \$.658 from the bottom reached at \$.64 Wednesday.

The listing of the land investment trust certificates (LITCs) in both exchanges last Friday drummed up good volume and liven up the market.
[as published]

Irving Ackermann's proposed silver certificate trading, now under study by the Central Bank, is expected to add to the much-needed market activity as a hedge against expected further peso devaluation by year-end, especially for investors skeptical about trading on government certificates.

Analysts expect funds to start moving out of the money market with people beginning to realize that keeping money in the money market is not a solution to the deteriorating peso.

The Securities and Exchange Commission reduced last week the annual fees charged the stock exchanges, a move designed to provide relief to exchanges.

Friday's surge of the Dow Jones Average to a record 1268.80 and the Nikkei average to a historical 9529.97 over investors' hopes for an improved economy with lower interest rates brightened hopes in the local stock market.

Massive rallies and mounting financial difficulties last week continued to grip the business environment, prompting analysts to comment that the stock market "would normalize only when the political and economic situation stabilizes."

CSO: 4200/88

DEVALUATION PROMPTS RATE HIKE SUBSIDY REQUESTS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 7 Oct 83 pp 1, 6

[Text] Local oil companies were reported preparing petitions for a 61-to-73 centavos per liter increase in the prices of their products following the P3 devaluation of the peso.

The peso-US dollar exchange rate was allowed by the Central Bank Wednesday to fall to P14-to-\$1 from P11-to-\$1, or a decline of over 27.3 percent.

Meantime, the state-owned National Power Corp. (NPC) postponed any announcement on an increase in power rates, which normally are automatically adjusted to new crude oil prices and peso-dollar exchange rates.

NCP officials said announcements on new power rates will be made after the Cabinet meeting today called by the President.

Other developments:

.The Price Stabilization Council warned that more commodities may be placed under price control if there is profiteering as a result of the peso devaluation.

.Vice Gov. Ismael Mathay Jr. said prices of basic commodities in Metro Manila will not be raised for at least two weeks. He added that the Metro Manila Commission will closely monitor prices of basic commodities.

.Mayor Bagatsing reactivated the city's price control council to keep a close watch on the prices of basic goods.

Local exporters, meantime, said they will ask the Central Bank for subsidy to pay for additional costs of their raw material imports resulting from the P3 devaluation of the local currency.

Through the Confederation of Philippine Exporters (COPE), the local companies also want the CB to fix the peso-dollar exchange rates of their payments for future imports to protect them from any currency fluctuation.

COPE president Nemesio Co said exporting companies incurred additional costs on their imports with the P3 devaluation of the peso.

He said COPE members and other exporters delayed payments on their importations on request of the CB, a move designed to prevent the country from exceeding certain ceilings on its short-term foreign borrowings.

In view of this request, local companies made arrangements to pay for their imports next year, which their suppliers accepted provided certain premiums are paid.

Oil industry sources said the minimum 69 centavos/liter price increase to be sought by oil companies is only designed to cover the additional import cost of oil as a result of the peso devaluation.

A formula designed by the energy ministry fixes the increase in the price of refined petroleum products, like gasoline, kerosene and others, 2.3 centavos a liter for every 10-centavo drop in the exchange rate of the peso against the US dollar.

Based on this formula, prices of refined oil products should rise by 69 centavos/liter with the P3 devaluation.

A higher price increase will have to be sought by the oil firms, sources said, to cover for additional costs on their imports of other inputs, like chemical additives and others.

The increases in the prices of petroleum products and power rates are expected to trigger a new round of increases in the prices of other basic goods and services.

No less than transport operators have warned that they will be forced to petition for a hike in fares once prices of gasoline and diesel go up.

Some trading companies, particularly those selling foodstuffs, automotive parts and construction materials, were reported to have either refused new sales or started withdrawing stocks from their outlets in anticipation of increases in the prices of their products.

However, any increase in the prices of petroleum products would only take effect December this year because the local oil industry has a crude oil stock good for 60 days or two months.

Wednesday's peso devaluation was the second in four months and the largest in more than 10 years.

The last devaluation in June (at about 7.3 percent) drove fuel prices up by more than 6 percent, transportation by 22 percent and consumer goods by roughly 10 percent.

Last August, power rates were raised by an average 4.5 centavos per kilowatt hour (KWH) to cover for the increased costs of fuel oil resulting from the peso depreciation.

The June peso devaluation also forced the deferral of five of the 11 major government industrial projects originally scheduled for completion in the mid-1980s, which led some quarters in the business community to speculate on the shelving of more industrial project with the recent devaluation.

ASSEMBLYMAN, TWO COLONELS SUSPECTED OF CURRENCY VIOLATION

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 8 Oct 83 p 6

[Text] A group of assemblymen from Western Visayas sought yesterday the identities of a fellow assemblyman, two colonels and several others allegedly involved in dollar salting and blackmarketing.

The assemblymen--Teodoro U. Benedicto, Salvador Britanico, Roberto Gatuslao, Remo Montelibano and Alfonso Garcia--said the move was necessary because the involved assemblyman, who claims to be close to Malacanang, hails from Western Visayas. This assemblyman, they said, "cast a loathsome stigma on the integrity of each of us."

In a press statement, the solons said it would be unjust for all members of the Batasang Pambansa to suffer the misdemeanor of one of their colleagues.

At least 40 persons, including an assemblyman and two colonels, were identified by an inter-agency task force as involved in dollar salting, black-marketing and smuggling.

The task force identified them as allegedly involved in the nefarious practices following the arrest two weeks ago of eight businessmen in the Chinatown district.

This developed as the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines sought an immediate government action to stop dollar salting and an investigation of the assemblyman allegedly involved in dollar salting.

TUCP general-secretary Ernesto Herrera said the Batasan should immediately investigate the activities of the assemblyman. He said the lawmaker should be expelled from the legislative body and prosecuted in court if found guilty.

He said this is necessary because he said the Batasan should now "perform a heroic act for almost six years of fruitless exercises over non-important undertakings."

The government, he said, should exercise some moral authority to maintain, if not shore up, its sagging credibility.

FINANCIAL SITUATION DELAYS INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 9 Oct 83 p 12

[Text] The government may have to postpone the setting up of an ambitious integrated steel mill because of the country's tight financial situation.

According to a high government official, the implementation of the major industrial projects, including the integrated steel mill, was among the issues raised during the recent negotiations for additional standby financing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and in talks with other foreign creditors.

The \$750 million steel project will have to be delayed or implemented in stages because of the massive financing involved that would otherwise be tapped for more pressing needs, he said.

"Our creditors questioned us on the timing of the major projects, and where we would get the financing," he added.

The fate of the steel project will likely be decided shortly with the arrival Monday of a six-member mission from the IMF to review the country's performance prior to the approval of new balance of payments (BOP) financing.

The country is seeking a total of \$636 million worth of standby credits from the IMF for an extended 15-month program.

Prime Minister Cesar Virata said the other night that about half of the amount has already been assured by the IMF, but the rest will depend on how much the Fund can borrow.

The IMF mission is expected to wrap up the loan package which the country hopes to tap before yearend to finance part of an expected \$1.4 billion BOP deficit for 1983.

Last week, the peso was devalued to P14 to \$1 as part of the reforms the IMF wants to seek prior to giving new loans. Other measures, such as the tightening of credit will be implemented next month, according to Virata.

The source said that steel project was actually being reviewed by the World Bank prior to the recent devaluation.

Minister of Trade and Industry Roberto Ongpin has said the project will proceed because it would help rather than worsen, the country's BOP position.

The average net foreign exchange savings of the project would be \$430 million yearly, even after considering the amortization of the debt, he added.

He pointed out that the steel project is the most profitable of all the original 11 major industrial projects conceived by the government.

Ongpin estimated that a one-year deferment would add \$300 million to the cost of the project.

CSO: 4200/88

SEC RELAXES LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESS SECTOR

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 9 Oct 83 p 12

[Text] The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) will be more liberal in dealing with the various business sectors, to improve the business climate and encourage local and foreign investments.

SEC Chairman Manuel G. Abello said SEC will give more time for applicants to comply with requirements for licenses and permits, and for existing companies in the submission of their reports.

Abello also ordered a cut in the penalties imposed on erring companies.

The SEC said a slowdown has been noted in some industries, particularly in investments. This observation surfaced following the suspension of the operations of Onapal Commodities, a commodity futures broker, in Cebu recently.

SEC insiders observed that financing companies have also been holding on to their funds intended for relending because of the "uncertain times."

The SEC hopes to help neutralize these adverse economic factors by relaxing its rules and regulations.

He said, however, that the relaxation of certain SEC rules does not mean the commission will "turn its back" on corporate violations.

While the SEC is liberal, it won't "open the door to any corporate fraud," he said.

According to Abello, the SEC will help other government agencies cushion the effects of the peso devaluation which is expected to disrupt the operations of existing businesses and discourage capital investments.

He has instructed the various SEC departments to assist applicants in complementing their papers, and to shorten the processing time.

CSO: 4200/88

RURAL, SUBURBAN BUSINESS UNAFFECTED BY DEMONSTRATIONS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 7 Oct 83 p 9

[Text] It's business as usual in the countryside, according to a random survey conducted by the PHILIPPINES NEWS AGENCY (PNA) in four major business centers--San Fernando, Pampanga, and in the cities of Legaspi, Cebu and Davao.

Businessmen with varied interests in banking, trading, marketing and general merchandise are believe that the mass actions in Metro Manila have not affected the normal flow of business in the countryside. [as published]

They also believe that the 10-point economic program of action of President Marcos will not only improve domestic productivity but also strengthen the export capability of the country.

In Cebu City, the once vaunted opposition capital of the nation, Raul del Mar, president of the 305-man Cebu Chamber of Commerce said: The current political development in Metro Manila has not in the least affected the flow of business in the area.

Sabiniano G. Villamor, president of the Cebu Banker's Association, said transactions in all the 100 banking institutions in Metro Cebu have been going on normally and have not been affected by the recent outburst of violence in some parts of Metro Manila.

The same views were expressed by Ms. Joji Darza, manager of Sarkies Travel, and Edward Go, owner of one of that city's leading supermarkets, as they expressed optimism that the business situation will remain normal.

The hotel and restaurant industry in Metro Cebu, however, said their business was slightly affected because of the adverse publicity and the foreign media.

Max Baron, president of the Cebu Hotel and Owners Association, said the influx of foreign, specially Japanese tourists, has slowed down due to the adverse publicity.

Baron said it is unfortunate that the reports created a picture of a country in turmoil considering that the demonstrations were isolated cases concentrated mostly in the capital.

The rest of the country, including Cebu and the surrounding Central Visayan islands have been enjoying ideal peace and order situation, he added.

In Davao City, a businessman engaged in food production, said that although the business sector could feel the apprehension of the people, business in the city and outlying areas is going on normally.

Francisco S. Dizon Sr., owner and general manager of F. S. Dizon Farms, Inc., said: Personally we are not affected by the tension created by the tragedy of the late Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr., and the subsequent events marked by violent rallies and demonstrations in Manila.

Dizon also welcomed the moves of the government to support business particularly the President's 10-point economic program of action.

However, Tolentino noted that people are more timid than before the August 21 tragedy, saying that they are now opting to keep their money in the bank in the meantime.

Jose A. Jison, a businessman and speaker protempore of the SANGGUNIANG PANLUNSOD said that although business is as usual, we are now at the brink of a panicky situation as a result of the manipulation of the opposition in turning the Aquino tragedy into a rallying point to violence instead of toward reconciliation.

In Legaspi City, the commercial hub of the Bicol region, business is normal notwithstanding the wait-and-see attitude of some businessmen.

Peter Policarpio, a contractor and dealer of petroleum products, opined that violent demonstrations only hurt the radicals since destruction of properties and deaths among the youth are inconsistent with the public feeling of a civilised society.

Other businessmen, while admitting commerce as usual, said they are watching development which might affect the country's economy.

Rene Angeles, an exporter, said the current situation might drive away importers of Philippine handicrafts from the trade fairs to be held in Manila this month.

Angeles, who is the past president of the Confederation of Philippine Exporters (Bicol Chapter), however, believes that the government can cope with the present peace and order situation.

Other Bicol businessmen also believe that the government can control the situation and that the Philippine economy will not be adversely affected.

In San Fernando, Pampanga, the business hub of the country's rice granary, businessmen engaged in banking, marketing and trading said the adverse political situation in Metro Manila has not affected the normal flow of business in Central Luzon.

PUBLIC WARNED ON SEDITION DECREE

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 7 Oct 83 pp 1, 13

[Article by Vicente B. Foz]

[Text]

In these days of high-strung passion over the assassination of former Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr., a word of caution to the innocent: please be extra careful with what you say. Otherwise, you might land in jail or, worse, be condemned to death.

The crime? Inciting to sedition.

Under the law, some of the ways of committing it are to use seditious words, to deliver seditious speeches, and to write scurrilous libel against the government or any of its officials.

Presidential Decree No. 1834, promulgated on Jan. 16, 1981, but published in the Official Gazette on July 25, 1983, states that inciting to sedition is a capital offense. The decree imposes a penalty ranging from reclusion perpetua (life sentence in layman's term) to execution in the electric chair.

Before the penal code provision on exciting to sedition was amended by PD-1834, the penalty was

only four years, two months, and one day to six years, and a maximum fine of P2,000.

Seditious words, speeches, or scurrilous libels against the government, the law says, are those which "tend to disturb or obstruct any lawful officer in executing the functions of his office, or which tend to instigate others to cabal and meet together for unlawful purposes, or which suggest or incite rebellious conspiracies or riots, or which lead or tend to stir up the people against the lawful authorities or to disturb the peace of the community, the safety and order of the government..."

In the 1920s, a town official, discussing the administration of Governor-General Leonard Wood with another person in the municipal building, shouted several times: "The Filipinos, like myself, must use bolos for cutting off Wood's head for having recommended a

bad thing for the Filipinos, for he has killed our independence." He was convicted of having uttered seditious words.

A man faked a suicide in the late '40s by having himself photographed supposedly hanging lifeless by the neck from a tree. He sent copies of a suicide note to newspapers. In the note he said he killed himself out of disgust over the administration of President Roxas.

He said the government was infested with many Hitlers and Mussolinis for which reason he could not hold high his brow to the world. He told his children to burn pictures of Roxas if they came across them. The man was convicted of scurrilous libel against the government.

The other type of inciting to sedition comprises the following elements:

The person does not take part in the crime

of sedition, but he incites others to perform any of the acts constituting sedition by means of speeches, proclamations, writings, emblems, cartoons, banners, or other representations.

How is sedition committed? It is committed by persons who rise publicly and tumultuously to attain by force, intimidation, or other illegal methods any of the following objects:

1. Prevent the promulgation or execution of any law or the holding of any popular election.

2. Prevent the national government or any local government or any public officer from freely exercising its functions, or prevent the execution of any administrative order.

3. Inflict any act of hate or revenge upon the person or property of any public officer or employee.

4. Commit for any political or social end

any act of hate or revenge against private persons or any social class.

5 Despoil, for any political or social end, any person, town or province, or the national government of all its property or any of its parts.

Sedition, in its general meaning, is the raising of commotions or disturbances in the state, says the Supreme Court. The ultimate object of sedition is the violation of the public peace or at least such a course of measures as evidently

engenders it, the court adds.

Under the terms of the provisions on exciting to sedition, it is not necessary that the serious words or speech succeed in causing actual disturbance or disorder. It is enough that they incite uprising or produces a feeling incompatible with the permanency of the government, the high court points out.

PD 1834 punishes sedition with reclusion perpetua to death. The same penalty is also imposed on eight other offenses in the penal

code: rebellion, conspiracy and proposal to commit rebellion or insurrection, inciting to rebellion or insurrection, plot or conspiracy to commit sedition, illegal assemblies, giving aid and comfort to perpetrators of rebellion or sedition, and using or allowing the use of mass communication facilities for mounting sustained propaganda against the government or any of its constituted authorities.

The last two offenses have been added to the crimes against public order.

Most of these offenses used to be punishable with a maximum of six years imprisonment and one day to 12 years imprisonment.

In justifying increased penalties for these offenses, President Marcos said the state has a right to self-defense when its life is endangered. These crimes constitute direct attacks on the life of the state. It is necessary, he said, to provide an effective deterrent to these "pernicious activities."

MINISTRY CANCELS 92 TIMBER LICENSES

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 6 Oct 83 p 12

[Text]

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has cancelled a total of 92 timber licenses of logging firms since August 4 when President Marcos ordered a ban on logging in the entire country except in nine areas.

The cancellation of the timber license agreement (TLA) reduced the number of logging firms that can operate in forested areas from 224 firms in 1982 to just 132, a 40 per cent reduction.

It also resulted in reduced logging areas and allowable cut. Last year, the TLAs of the 224 firms covered 6,256,880 hectares. After the cancellation of the 92 TLAs, the 132 firms will be allowed to

cut logs at an aggregate annual allowable cut of about 5.41 million cubic meters.

Cancelled TLAs are distributed as follows: Region IV, eight firms; region I, six; Bicol, 11; Negros, six; Nueva Visaya and Quirino, 12; Palawan, four; Samar, two; Zamboanga del Norte, six; Zamboanga del Sur, six; Agusan del Norte, two; Agusan del Sur, five; Misamis Oriental, one; Surigao del Sur, two; Davao del Sur, two; Davao del Norte, six; Davao Oriental, one; Cagayan one; Isabela, three; North Cotabato, three; Lanao del Sur, one; Maguindanao, two; and Sultan Kudarat, two.

The log-export ban policy is to prevent the

destruction of the country's forest cover. Natural Resources Minister Teodoro A. Peña, following instruction of the President, cancelled the 92 TLAs in three tranches. The first was on August 9 which resulted in the cancellation of 31 TLAs covering 842,263 hectares and with a total allowable cut of 1.25 million cubic meters.

The nine areas not covered by the log ban are part of Agusan del Sur, Northern Cagayan, Eastern Isabela, part of Zamboanga del Sur, South Cotabato, Northeastern Davao, part of Samar, Northern Kalanga-Apayao, and part of Palawan.

CSO: 4200/84

BRITISH CONSIDER NEW OIL PALM VENTURE

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 10 Oct 83 p 12

[Text] Commonwealth Development Corp. (CDC), the investment arm of the British government, is eyeing a 5,000-hectare agricultural lot in Loreto, Agusan del Sur, as possible site for an oil palm plantation project.

The area is located near the site of an earlier-announced oil palm project by the state-owned National Development Co. and London-based Dunlop International, but which has been dropped.

Two members of (British) Parliament were in the country last week to conduct an ocular on the said site in Loreto as well as look into reports on the presence of the so-called "Lost Command" in the area, which poses security risks in the southern province.

The inspection conducted by the two MPs was requested by CDC. Findings of the team--Als Dubs and Colin Moynihan--will form the basis of CDC's decision whether to proceed with the oil palm project or not.

Sources from the British embassy said the MPs also visited the site of another oil palm plantation project in San Francisco, also in Agusan, which is partly funded by CDC.

The project, jointly operated by the state-owned National Development Co. and Guthrie Overseas of Malaysia, has been onstream for two years. It has, however, reported "having difficulties with the Lost Command."

Sources said that the MPs have found the peace and order situation in the area "generally improved" and added that the land acquisition problems encountered by NDC-Guthrie are slowly being settled.

The two MPs were reported to have stated that plantation development over the long-term will have good development value for the province and the country in general, an indication that the recommendations of the members of the British Parliament are on the positive side, sources added.

CDC's plan is to go into joint venture with the NDC to develop a 5,000-hectare oil palm plantation and, at the same time, encourage residents in the area to engage in out-growing (contract-growing) of oil palm for processing in the mill CDC plans to set up.

UNKNOWN SABOTEURS INFECT DAVAO BANANA CROP

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 10 Oct 83 p 6

[Article by Orlando F. Aquino: "Typical of the Times"]

[Excerpt]

Reports reaching us from Davao City are to the effect that banana plantations in Davao del Norte are being sabotaged by unknown persons believed infecting the fruit trees with moko bacteria, making the trunks emit a foul smell and then wilt and bear tiny fruits.

According to our information, the disease is spread by simply staking healthy plants with wooden sticks infected with moko. It is even suspected that farm implements are

being used to infect vast plantations.

Banana producers believe that economic saboteurs are behind the re-emergence of the moko menace — it hit plantations to a significant extent last year — considering that banana is a strong dollar-earning industry. The Philippine exports about 80 million boxes of Cavendish bananas to the Middle East and Japan annually.

CSO: 4200/84

BRIEFS

SEC ALLOWS CP ISSUES--The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday allowed companies with remaining long-term commercial papers (CPs) to issue such CPs without necessarily securing SEC approval. The SEC issued the clarification in answer to queries on whether corporate issuers can still float long-term CPs in relation to the transitory provision of the proposal long-term money market rules. Furthermore, the SEC said companies not qualified under the proposed new rules could continue with their outstanding issues and can even apply for roll-overs. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 Oct 83 p 10]

RICE, CORN STOCKS--The country's rice and corn supplies are at "comfortable" levels and would be boosted by more harvests coming in from Mindanao this month, Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco Jr. said yesterday. Tanco, who visited rice and corn farms in South Cotabato last Thursday, said about 25 to 35 percent of rice farms and another 30 percent of corn farms still have to harvest this month. Rice stocks as of Oct. 1 were estimated at 925,000 tons, which Tanco said will last for 64 days. He said the estimate does not include expected harvest for October. The National Food Authority, Tanco said, is still buying corn at the rate of 12,000 to 15,000 cavans per day with procurement to taper off late this month. Tanco said that despite the seven-month drought which hit the Visayas and Mindanao, the first crop of the Maisagana program this year was 300,000 tons more than harvest of the same period last year. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 Oct 83 p 2]

LOCAL FEAR OR TORTURE--Tokyo (AP)--People in the Philippines are crying for advice on how to cope with torture, a member of Amnesty International's medical group said Tuesday. Speaking at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan, Dr. Gorm Wagner said a recent trip to the Philippines gave him a view of the broadness of fear among the Filipino population. Wagner, an associate professor at Copenhagen University, is currently on tour of Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan and the United States to get a first-hand look at countries where torture is going on and to secure moral and financial support in countries where it does not occur. Countries such as the United States, Australia and Japan, he said, should be pushed to consider economic help to a rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims at Copenhagen University. [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 6 Oct 83 p 4]

MILITARY EXPERTS OPPOSE KRA CANAL PLAN

Kuching SARAWAK TRIBUNE in English 9 Sep 83 p 13

[Text]

Thailand's influential military establishment has given an emphatic 'thumbs down' to the age-old dream of a canal which would provide a short-cut for ships plying between the Indian Ocean and the Far East.

The projected waterway, cutting across the narrowest section of the Malay Peninsula at the Kra Isthmus, would obviate the need to use the Malacca Straits and rounding Singapore.

But Thailand's Army Secretary, Col. Nareudol Dechpradiyuth, disclosed here that the latest defence studies had argued exclusively against the scheme. "Speaking strictly from the military point of view", he added, "the Kra Canal has nothing going for it".

If built, the canal would become the world's eighth major maritime bottleneck, and Thailand would be hard-pressed to assume responsibility for a water-

way which would immediately assume a global strategic importance.

The colonel also stressed that the resulting demands on the military would be a waste of Thailand's limited resources and affect readiness in other areas. This remark was interpreted as a reference to Vietnam's expansionist ambitions. Tension on the Thai-Cambodian border has been high since Hanoi invaded the latter country.

WARNED

The Army Secretary also revealed that the Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Arthit Kamlan-gek, had recently warned Parliament's military commission that a Kra canal would aggravate logistical problems. The movement of men and equipment down the peninsula, stretching more than 800 kilometres from Bangkok to the Malay border, was already "difficult enough".

Col. Dechpradiyuth said that if renewed serious consideration were to be given to the project, there would have to be fresh feasibility studies from the economic, political and military viewpoint.

A Kra canal has long been a recurring dream for Thais and others. An 18th century Thai military commander even turned to verse to express his enthusiasm for the concept.

Earlier last century an official of the British East India company proposed the cutting of a canal to reduce the sailing time from Madras to China. Then, in 1881, the French, fresh from their triumph in completing the Suez waterway, applied for a concession to do the same at Kra.

But Thailand's King Chulalongkorn refused the request. The idea was revived in the 1920s, but major world Powers, especially Britain, disapproved and the project was shelved for security reasons.

RTN TO CHANGE FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM ON CORVETTES

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 2 Oct 83 p 2

[Text] Newly-appointed Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Prapat Chantavirat reaffirmed yesterday that the navy will change the firing control system of the two Corvette warships which it has decided to buy from a US-based company.

"We will get the best for the lowest price," he told reporters after a ceremony to take over the post of navy commander-in-chief from his predecessor Adm Somboon Chuapibul yesterday.

The decision by the navy to introduce a new firing control system for the two ships has sparked off a complaint from Cybernetics Co which was originally commissioned to handle the work.

The company submitted a letter to the House standing committee for military affairs to complain about the decision made by the navy.

Adm Somboon said over the weekend that he had appointed a working committee to study the proposed change in the firing control system after it was found that the original system was overpriced.

"We have found evidence that several components of the electronic firing control system are charged twice or three times more than their actual prices," he said.

The modern weapons to be installed on the two Corvettes include anti-submarine missiles, Harpoon long-range anti-ship missile and Sea Sparrow surface-to-air missile as well as 72mm cannons.

"They will be the most modern and best-equipped warships for our navy," Adm Somboon said.

He said the working committee, comprising about 20 senior navy officers and experts, is expected to be able to come up with a report this month. He said Takoma Boatbuilding Co Ltd of the US which are building the Corvettes had no objection to the change in the firing control system.

CSO: 4200/87

BRIEFS

AIR FORCE MAY BUY DC-8'S-The Royal Thai Air Force is considering buying three DC8 planes from Thai Airways International (THAI) for transporting arms and equipment from the United States, Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM Praphan Dhupatemiya disclosed yesterday. The Air Force was expected to invest about 200 million baht for the DC8s, including spare parts and other necessities, ACM Praphan said. According to the planned deal, Thai International would have to repair and upgrade the planes to top condition before the purchase, he said. ACM Praphan said that the RTAF was planning to use the DC8s for transporting military equipments ordered from the US so as to reduce transportation costs. In addition, RTAF pilots would also benefit by gaining experience in international flights. Recently, the RTAF had purchased four Avro 748 planes from Thai Airways Co Ltd (TAC), one of which has already been delivered, he said. The Avro planes cost about 98 million baht and the RTAF will be using them for transporting food and military reinforcement in the battle field, he said. [Text]
[Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Sep 83 p 1]

CSO: 4200/87

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

VINH INTENSIFIES FIGHT AGAINST ENEMY SABOTAGE ACTS

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 11 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by Le Dinh Toi: "Vinh Municipality Builds Its Force To Fight Enemy Psychological Warfare Activities"]

[Text] In the last few years, in the Municipality of Vinh the enemy was conducting multifaceted sabotage activities, with the most obvious ones being the psychological warfare propaganda aimed at causing confusion among the people and other negative activities in the economic, cultural, ideological, social order and national-defense security fields.

In this new fight, Vinh set the basic direction for winning in the enemy's multifaceted war of destruction as follows: "Build the municipality strong in all aspects -- in the political, ideological, organizational, economic, social and national-defense security aspects -- in order to satisfy the needs of the two strategic tasks of the party and the need for building and protecting the security of the municipality."

The municipality conducted many phases of political activities and learning of the resolutions and directives from the superior echelons and its own leadership for all cadres and party members and opened 11 basic political courses for the cadres in charge and party members. The party bases having 80-85 percent of their members taking part in the learning also learned from the resolutions of the VCP Central Committee and provincial and municipal committees. Cadres from the municipal level down to the subward, village and basic levels were improved and received advanced training in organizing experience and leading mass movement. The municipality strengthened its organizing capacity, raised the quality of party members and improved the party's fighting power and leading role. Fifteen party organizations received the title of clean and strong ones; more than 12,000 party members were considered qualified; and through the movement, more than 400 new members were admitted, while tens of unqualified party members were expelled from the party. Administrations at all levels from the municipal level on down received

advanced training in responsibilities, the law and economic management and on a regular basis sought any critical ideas and constructive opinion from the people. The municipality paid more attention to actively resolving any matters having to do with procedures and policies in a rational manner; effectively dealt with the aftermaths of Typhoon No 7 (1982) and the 1983 whirlwind; and was able to limit the shortcomings and failures and to prevent the enemy and bad elements from taking advantage of them and spreading distortion and verbal attacks.

The municipality perfected 1,495 people's public security teams, with more than 10,000 households taking part in their activities on a regular basis and considering mutual help their principal concern. Many villages, subwards and organs, such as Hung Dung, Cua Nam, Ben Thuy, etc., shared the experience to the effect that the chiefs and deputy chiefs of these people's public security teams should at the same time be the heads and deputy heads of neighborhood blocks or hamlets in order to secure orderly activities of better quality. The municipality had 456 organs stationed within its boundaries. In order to maintain good management of registration of households and different kinds of residents, it moved the collective quarters of these cadres, workers and civil servants to subwards and villages where administrative management was taken care of by the latter and organized 187 locations for these organs to house their people temporarily after registration.

The municipality expanded a number of attractive occupations to resolve the problem of the unemployed, particularly the young people. In 6 months it made job arrangements for nearly 1,000 people. Many subwards and villages provided appropriate jobs to all of their excess manpower. Appropriate jobs were specifically given to the troops who had been demobilized or fulfilled their military obligation and returned to the locality.

The movement to build new cultural families was being properly developed. In many subwards, villages and units, nearly 100 percent of families registered and volunteered to build a civilized and wholesome way of life and to abolish superstition and other backward old customs. In only one period of voluntary action, hundreds of thien dai worshiping columns were torn down by people. And also thanks to their voluntary reports, the municipality was able to arrest and deal with priests and fortunetellers, both those who were local residents and those who had come from elsewhere. In the initial evaluation, in many subwards and villages more than 70 percent of families satisfied the "New cultural families" criteria.

As the result of all of the above-mentioned activities and action of the municipality, the enemy's psychological warfare arguments (which normally were spread by word of mouth), false rumors and satirical folk songs and poems, such as the rumors about the "81 heat wave," "changes of the earth," etc.

and the four cases of propaganda based on enemy arguments, were discovered and dealt with in time and effectively extinguished. Consequently, social order and security have undergone many changes and in many aspects have become more stable. The numbers of cases of violations of socialist properties have decreased by nearly 30 percent; purse snatching by more than 50 percent; false pretenses, swindling and defrauding by more than 60 percent; and traffic accidents by 40 percent.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

THUAN HAI STRENGTHENS PEOPLE'S SECURITY NETWORK

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 13 Sep 83 p 1

[VNA News Release: "Thuan Hai Develops Coastal People's Public Security Network"]

[Text] The border defense troops of Thuan Hai Province, along with the local administration, have been organizing, building and consolidating the coastal people's public security teams in order to improve combat readiness and to unmask any enemy plot launched from the sea to destroy land targets.

In addition to the task of maintaining inspection and control and providing combat training, the border defense force has consolidated and built 1,722 coastal people's public security teams, which attracted 98 percent of families, and organized learning of the state directives and resolutions on defense of the national waters for 48,318 people-times. The border outposts have been paying attention to the measures aimed at cleaning up the areas for which they were responsible, keeping the people's public security and paramilitary forces clean, taking part in consolidating the fishing cooperatives and production units and handling 31 cases of violations of the regulations on security in the national waters. The border defense troops of Thuan Hai Province have also organized a mobile sea militia force to assist fishermen in catching sea products and maintaining security for their production.

Outposts 726, 742, 754 and 710, while carrying out the motto, "eat, live and work with the people," have taken part in production and assisted the families of dead heroes and wounded soldiers. Outpost 726, located in an area where fleeing illegally by boat was often taking place, succeeded in preventing such fleeing -- none has happened since the beginning of the year -- thanks to closely working with the people. The people of the coastal villages supplied to the border defense troops 826 pieces of information, helped them to thwart 60 percent of the cases of preparing for fleeing by boat, protected the properties of fishermen and captured many weapons and means of operations.

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BORDER LOCALITY SOLVES CASE OF SCRIBBLED BLOOD MARKS

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 11 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by Minh Khoa: "Scribbled Blood Marks"]

[Text] According to a report of the outpost 404 command, there currently appeared scribbled blood marks on the walls of the people's houses in 4 villages in the area this unit was in charge of. The reactionaries were disseminating the news about "a natural omen presaging a forthcoming large-scale war." The unit made a preliminary observation: This was an enemy plot aimed at undermining our military recruitment and second-round party congress. It recommended some guidance to be provided by the higher-level reconnaissance organ.

Upon hearing that news, the reconnaissance section of the Son La border defense organ sent its cadres to the locality to determine, along with the outpost command and border reconnaissance unit, where the incident had taken place. It was four villages in Song Ma District along the border. Blood marks had appeared on the walls of the houses of cadres, party members, soldiers' families and particularly the meeting hall of the district party committee and local general school.

This was a political case involving the reactionaries. The group involved in the case was large and organized and acted in a bold manner.

In addition to acting as the staff of the local administration in organizing learning by the people and unmasking the enemy's destructive plot and tricks, the reconnaissance force investigated the suspected people, gathered and affirmed the news and their sources, consolidated evidences and prepared for prosecution.

As they became targets, the reactionaries spread the news: "The bodies of members of the reconnaissance unit and those who gave them information would be thrown into Ma River." The news from the unit: Lo Van Lech and

Lo Van Vi who secretly met so often were very suspicious. The reactionaries then spread some news to indirectly threaten the families who had let the border defense cadres and public security force frequent their homes. More boldly they stole two water buffaloes from Hat Village and slaughtered them in the forest, destroyed ricefield embankments to let water out, stole high-pressure cylinders of rice mills, poured D66 into the villages' fish-raising ponds, chopped down banana trees in the new economic zones and caused suspicion and loss of solidarity between the Vietnamese and Thai ethnic people.

Another unit reported that Lech had just bought a bottle of red dye. The more urgent our investigation became, the busier the activities of the people who were our targets became. One night, dog barking was unusually excessive; the next morning, the people living near the district party committee organs found new blood marks on the walls of their houses. Samples were collected by the reconnaissance units and sent to the office of the court's physician, who concluded that they contained blood mixed with red dye.

Still another unit reported: Following the incident of blood marks found near the district party committee organs, a group of people gathered in the home of Lo Van Un. The prosecuting cadres, in the face of this situation, decided that Lech and Vi were the leaders of the reactionaries here and requested that warrants be issued for their arrest. As their houses were searched, many bamboo pipes containing water buffalo blood mixed with red dye and a number of brushes used to make the marks were seized.

However, after a rather long time, the two men still stubbornly refused to admit their crime. In the meantime, their followers who had been assisting them were summoned by the authorities for questioning. Many of them revealed the names of the gang leaders and admitted the truth. Lo Van Khien came to see Toang Van Oan, a member of the border defense force, to denounce Lech, Vi and Un. As Lech saw Khien sitting in front of the desk of the investigating cadre, he then agreed to report on his crime. They were a group of people who had been refusing to be reformed and, furthermore, had a hatred for the revolution. They had just started a small organization and continued the activities aimed at undermining and resisting the positions and policies of the locality.

The case was solved. The political security and social order in the border area were again in a state of stability. The cadres and people of the minorities in the locality, now more encouraged and confident, have been cooperating with the border defense force to fulfill even better the task of protecting a border area of the fatherland.

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

HCM CITY STRENGTHENS IMPLEMENTING NEW TAX REGULATION

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 10 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Bui Van Bong: " Ho Chi Minh City Strengthens Measures Aimed at Making More Effective the Implementation of the New Industrial and Commercial Tax Regulation"]

[Text] In the last nearly 6 months, Ho Chi Minh City obtained initial results in implementing the new state regulation on the industrial and commercial tax. In the 12 urban wards and 6 rural districts, the Municipal Industrial and Commercial Tax Branch sent out 200 teams of professional cadres and control and management civil servants to assist the localities in correctly implementing the regulation and policy, with more and more obvious results being obtained.

The committee in charge of industrial and commercial transformation within the Municipal People's Committee assigned the professional cadres who were capable and experienced and had good qualities and enthusiasm the task of extending the implementation of the regulation to every subward, village and neighborhood citizens' team, in coordination with the tax branch. The financial, local trade, prices, public security, judiciary and communications-transportation organs of the municipality and wards and districts took part in coordinated work in the committees in charge of market management and in organizing investigation aimed at controlling the business households, the scope and nature of their business, as well as occupations of every business household, in three fields -- production, services and the food and beverage business. The professional organs paid attention from the very beginning to investigation aimed at getting to know the number of business households, turnovers and business activities and to creating favorable conditions for setting the correct amounts of commercial license tax, business tax and business income tax. On the basis of investigating to get to know turnovers and scope of business and to set the tax rate for each business household, the guidance committee for the industrial and commercial tax, along with the party committee echelons and administrations of the localities, made business registers and tax charts in the collective and individual production and business installations.

Through the professional and control measures taken by the organs in charge, Ho Chi Minh City lately was able to unmask 2,736 additional households having done illegal business and evaded tax or cheated on paying tax; 2,518 households having made counterfeit products and false turnover statement; and 1,239 households having scattered or hidden their properties, practiced speculation and raised prices and made false statement about the quality of their goods.

In carrying out price management and management and transformation of the free market, the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th and 11th Precincts and Phu Nhuan Ward reorganized the vending stalls on the main streets, made new arrangement to make things more orderly in markets and stabilized the organization of market management boards. The market management committees in Ben Thanh, Binh Tay, An Dong, Nguyen Thoi Trung and Nguyen Van Troi Markets recently adopted plans for management of private-business households and reorganization and rearrangement of the marketing cooperatives' stores, jointly-operated stores, consigned-goods stalls and retail agents centers. In the last 3 months, the market management committees of the markets in 12 precincts and in Hoc Mon, Cu Chi, Binh Chanh and Nha Be Districts unmasked and dealt with on a timely basis 6,367 private-business households having failed to register for business and 10,360 cases of speculation, raising prices, failing to post prices or selling at prices 10-30 percent higher than the posted ones. The market management committees and industrial and commercial tax organs were carrying out 5 Managements: management of registration for business; management of registration of prices and purchasing and selling at the registered prices; management of registration of financial accounts; management of accounting registers of all kinds related to business activities; and strict management of payment of business taxes.

In order to further strengthen the implementation of the new industrial and commercial tax regulation and to make it more effective, the Municipal VCP Committee and People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City have been providing the professional organs in charge with leadership and guidance in terms of regularly reviewing, checking, evaluating, getting experience, finding the good and still-not-so-good aspects, overcoming in time any shortcomings and ensuring truly strict and just implementation of the industrial and commercial tax regulation in full compliance with the policy so as to attain the goal of encouraging development of production, regulating income, stabilizing market prices and gradually improving the standard of living of working people.

AGRICULTURE

RUBBER TREE PLANTING EXCEEDS ASSIGNED GOAL FOR 1983

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 10 Sep 83 p 1

[VNA News Release: "Rubber Sector -- Planting Anew 18,800 Hectares of Rubber Trees, Exceeding 1983 Plan Goal by 25 Percent"]

[Text] By the end of August 1983, the rubber corporations subordinate to the Rubber General Department had planted 18,800 hectares of rubber trees, exceeding by 25 percent the goal set in the 1983 state plan and by 5 percent the goal set by the sector itself, and increasing by 29 percent over 1982.

The rubber corporations of Dong Nai, Dau Tieng and Phu Rieng planted anew from 4,000 to 5,000 hectares and either fulfilled or overfulfilled their plan, with the Dong Nai corporation overfulfilling its plan by 19.9 percent.

At the beginning of 1983, after the party and state had assigned it the task of raising the rubber cultivated area to 500,000 hectares in the coming years, the Rubber General Department acted on its own initiative to raise the goal of new planting by 2,900 hectares over the state-assigned 1983 plan, with the Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation projects being raised by 1,100 hectares.

Considering planting new rubber trees in 1983 an extremely important step which as a training phase would pave the way for planting at a faster pace and on a larger scale in the coming years, the rubber-planting corporations and farms throughout the country have adopted many measures aimed at overcoming difficulties in connection with materials, capital and labor; concentrating their energy on the soil-preparation program; and planting rubber trees on schedule, in compliance with technical requirements and for overfulfillment of the plan in terms of the cultivated area.

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LABOR

REPORT FIGURES HIDE MINERS' POOR LIVING CONDITIONS

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 14 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Nguyen Hoang Linh: "Serving the Living Conditions of Miners in Quang Ninh -- Behind the Report Figures"]

[Text] According to reports by the local commercial sector, an observation could be made: the supplying of goods to miners here was rather stable. Statistics showed that in 1982, nearly 70,000 workers in the mining sector received all of the goods to be supplied to them in accordance with Decision 018-PC of the Council of Ministers. In the first 7 months this year, coal miners bought 51.2 percent of the meat (or fat as substitute) set by the state standards for the entire year, 51.8 percent of sugar, 58.9 percent of soap, and so on. In early September, almost all mines were buying pork for August and sugar for July. In Mong Duong mine, which is the farthest one, the pork rations for June were being sold. The grain and marine products sectors of Quang Ninh Province also reported that grain, fish and fish sauce were supplied in accordance with the state standards.

However, as we made a trip along the northeastern "black gold" arch of the fatherland, from Mao Khe mine (Dong Trieu District) through Uong Bi, then Ha Lam and Ha Tu (Hon Gai) mines to the last mine, which is Mong Duong, we found that things were different from our initial observation. In every mine we heard complaints from workers about the fact that the commercial, grain and marine products sectors had not been serving them well enough. Their complaints ranged from supplying goods with or without quotas, selling goods by the state standards to workers in shift 3, which is a shift of hardship and harmful effects on workers' health, and organizing services to negative aspects in distribution.

The matter thus did not end with the figures contained in reports.

Full Supply, Not Really!

For workers and cadres being ensured of full supply of the goods to be bought with ration stamps and coupons by the state standards was a greatly significant thing, but for miners this significance was even greater. These were the in kind wages that the serving sectors would have the responsibility for paying fully and regularly to workers. The "regular" aspect, under the conditions of the present overall difficult situation, could not be affirmed, but the "full" aspect was rather obvious. As the books said full supply, the in kind wages of miners, after so many steps and levels, actually were reduced to being not so full, really.

We were surprised to find that in every mine area there were private business people selling pork on the basis of stamps and coupons. More surprising was the fact that the cadres in charge in the mines, and in the state stores as well, did recognize the situation and admit they had not yet found any measures to overcome it. Since the sources of goods were not stable and the service network was small, the people who were dealing in stamps and coupons were very active. Those miners who wanted to buy pork had either to take a day off to stand in line or to use the service of some "business" people, who would give them .7 kilogram of meat for a 1-kilogram coupon, or even .6 kilogram at a time of "pressure." Once the security people in Mong Duong, Mao Khe, coal mine caught red-handed a state store employee smuggling meat out of the store and giving it to a "business" person and later made a full report on the incident, but somehow nothing happened afterwards.

The three-way delivery of hogs (among raisers, food stores and mines) caused considerable losses to the standards that miners were entitled to. According to regulations, the rate of converting hogs, live weight, to stamps and coupons for hogs of all kinds was 66 percent (i. e., every 100 kilograms of hogs, live weight, would equal 66 kilograms of meat on the basis of stamp and coupon standards), but many commercial corporations delivered to the coal mines hogs of smaller size (35-45 kilograms) and still used the rate of 66 percent. And so in spite of the 66-kilogram stamp and coupon standards, for this kind of hogs, miners actually got 55-58 kilograms, a loss of 8-11 kilograms. In the Mao Khe mine, once deliveries were made within a short period, with 700 hogs being delivered then. As the mine did not have bran to feed the hogs and was unable to slaughter them all, the hogs were dying, up to 55 hogs in a certain day. The mine had to bury more than 3 tons of dead hogs, valued at 120,000 dong. When a comrade working with the commercial corporation was asked why dressed meat instead of hogs, live weight, was not delivered to miners, he answered: "Three-way deliveries are aimed at reducing circulation costs for the corporation."

Let us talk about fish. In Quang Ninh, the marine products sector was assigned the task of supplying fish and fish sauce according to state standards. As fish were scarce, miners were to buy a liter of fish sauce for every kilogram of fish as a substitute. At first, it sounded fair because a liter of fish sauce weighed approximately a kilogram. But from the standpoint of nutrients, which miners would greatly need, they were greatly different. In a liter of grade 1 fish sauce, there are only 15-18 grams of protein, equal to the amount of protein in .1 kilogram of fresh fish. Miners needed to replace fresh fish with dried fish (in a certain proportion, of course) in order to raise the quantity of protein in their meals, but their need was not satisfied. The quality of the fish sauce sold to them was not guaranteed. Grade 1 fish sauce often had the quality of grade 2, sometimes even lower. Although the period in which the quality of fish sauce was guaranteed must be 3-6 months, once the marine products sector supplied the Dong Trieu commercial corporation with 24,000 liters of fish sauce and guaranteed its quality for only 20 days. When the fish sauce reached the workers, it had become unconsumable because of its bad odor.

In the case of other goods, the reimbursing of the differences was also far from rational; for instance, the cash payment for compensation of sugar rations in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 1982 was not made to workers until 8 months later. With such a cash payment that they received that late, they were able to buy only 50 percent of the quantity of sugar they were supposed to get. Another example was the case of Quang Ninh raising the prices of 500 small fans, from supply prices to business prices, in order to exchange for hogs; consequently, the number of fans made available to miners, which normally was small, was even fewer.

Supplementing With... Cigarettes

One must go into a mine to realize the hardship of miners' job. They constantly come into contact with toxic gases like carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, etc. emitted from the seams. Scientists therefore consider their job one of hardship being harmful to their health.

When we were in Quang Ninh, we learned that the goods that were to supplement for the harmful effects of miners' job in accordance with three categories (hard work, harmful environment and shift 3) were not guaranteed by anyone to be available to them. The commercial sector adopted the policy of supplying them with any goods that it had, which meant only one-third of the target it had set (in spite of the fact that the target of its plan was much less than the actual needs). In the first 7 months of this year, it supplied 31 tons of pork to the 3 categories out of the target it had set of 94 tons; 65 tons of sugar out of 191.6 tons; 17 tons of beans of all kinds out of 83.5 tons, and so on. In Mao Khe coal mine, it supplied 660 kilograms of pork in the 1st quarter out of

a set goal of 4,796 kilograms; in the 2nd quarter, with its goal being set at 7,101 kilograms, and in the 3rd quarter, at 6,606 kilograms, nobody was able to buy a single kilogram yet. In Ha Lam coal mine, in the first 6 months this year, although the plan called for 12,300 cans of milk to be supplied, it did not receive a single can yet; the 9,585 kilograms of beans of all kinds to be delivered as its plan called for were also deleted from the book.

In that situation, all coal mines had to expand their own business in connection with the daily life and thus assumed the function of a commercial enterprise. They ran around all over the province and other friendly provinces in order to buy, to sell and to exchange to get meat, rice, cakes and candies to provide meal supplements for the three categories of workers. To a certain extent this activity further contributed to the chaotic state of the market.

Although the workers' supplemented meals were maintained, their costs were high. The number of calories in the meals was not enough to compensate for the energy they spent during their working hours. In some places, the supplemental rations to compensate for the harmful effects on their health were just a few candies or cookies. In other places, workers got...a glass of wine. Lou Van Binh, assistant director of Mao Khe mine, admitted: "Sometimes, we were not able to find any goods and had to give them...cigarettes as supplement instead!"

Not Only in Mong Duong

In 1989, the Mong Duong mine began to operate. It is the first shaft mine in our country, is highly mechanized and has many specialized-use equipment and machines. The network of galleries is at a depth of 105 meters below the sea level and is connected to the surface by a shaft equipped with a system of buckets. It is a remote mine where the work is the hardest, but the least attention was paid to the life of miners in Mong Duong. While at other locations the meat for August was being sold by the state standards, in Mong Duong the sales of the meat for June had just started. In the first 6 months of this year, in spite of the plan calling for supplying Mong Duong with 62 tons of vegetables, only 2.7 tons were actually delivered. Some people who had come to Mong Duong 7 years ago have not yet been able to buy from the state store even a pail or washbowl. The rate of absenteeism was 35 percent, and as much as 47 percent among workers in underground mine, with the productivity of the mine decreasing. Engineer Vuong Van Doc, deputy director of Mong Duong mine, had this observation: "The 1983 plan of the mine is to produce 150,000 tons of coal, but by August we have produced only 20,000 tons. One of the greatest reasons is the fact that the living conditions of miners do not draw appropriate attention.

Not only in Mong Duong but in many other mines did a similar situation exist. Pham Tan Luat, deputy director of Uong Bi Coal Corporation, said: "In the first 3 months of this year, Vang Danh mine fulfilled only 48 percent of its plan for the entire year. The rate of absenteeism among miners at work faces (where coal is extracted) ranged from 37 to 49 percent. In 6 months, 395 persons were absent without acceptable excuses for from 30 to 124 work days." Out of 239 miners working at Mao Khe's work face, seam 9 East 1, nearly 100 were absent on a regular basis. The rate of monthly absenteeism was about 40 percent, or twice the acceptable level. Coal output dropped from 300 tons/day to 260 tons, in August down to 210-220 tons/day.

The difficulties in daily life reduced miners' life expectancy. The labor productivity also showed a tendency to decrease. The labor norm per work day of miners 14-15 years ago was 30 drilled holes for explosives, but now it has gone down to 15 holes. Should the above figures compel us to think hard and to find the reasons?

A Simple Question

As we mentioned the shortcomings, we did not mean to deny the great efforts of the sectors that served the Quang Ninh miners. For during this trip we met many comrades who worked day and night and devoted themselves to the life of miners. However, the important thing is the end product: will miners some day be better served? Workers fully understand the common difficulties of the country, but they cannot accept a shortage of meat while state store employees in the commercial sector make illegal deals and supply meat to business people. And when the commercial sector announced it had no more meat to sell, a number of cadres and civil servants in the Cam Pha commercial corporation colluded with one another and fraudulently took 94 hogs. Nor can they accept the lack of hygienic practice, such as the case of the food store in Ha Lam putting meat on the ground full of coal dust. Workers do not agree with the grain sector when it explains that because of the long distance the rice shipment has to travel, it contains moldy parts, lots of unhusked grains and pebbles. Nor can they understand why fish sauce "has a bad odor because it has been made with chuop nom." They raise only one simply question: all of the situations that are mentioned above are correctable, but why are they not corrected in time?

"Produce as much coal as possible for the fatherland," this motto can be seen and heard anywhere in Quang Ninh. Coal is the grain of industry. Coal is the black gold of the fatherland. Everybody knows that meaning. However, in order to make this motto come true, one of the urgent things to do now is to really pay attention to the living conditions of miners!

BIOGRAPHIC

INFORMATION ON VIETNAMESE PERSONALITIES

[The following information on Vietnamese personalities has been extracted from Vietnamese-language sources published in Hanoi, unless otherwise indicated. Asterisked job title indicates that this is the first known press reference to this individual functioning in this capacity.]

Lê Sy Bô [LEE SYX BOOJ]

*Vice chairman of the People's Committee, Me Linh District, Hanoi; he answered some readers' letters on protecting the trees around Uncle Ho's statue in his district. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 83 p 2)

Vũ Ngọc Bô [VUX NCOCJ BOOJ]

*Chairman of the People's Committee, Cao Bang Province; on 6-7 September 1983 he attended the 9th Cao Bang Trade Union Congress of delegates. (LAO DONG 15 Sep 83 p 2)

Phan Xuân Chương [PHAN XUAAN CHUWOUNG]

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; on 31 August-1 September 1983 he attended the 3d Ben Tre HCMCYU Congress. (TIEN PHONG 13-19 Sep 83 p 2)

[May be the same as Phan Van Chuong [PHAN VAWN CHUWOWNG] previously reported in this position.]

Nguyễn Dân [NGUYEENX ZAA NF]

Chairman of the People's Committee, Haiphong Municipality; recently in Haiphong he received a delegation of the Soviet Communist Party Committee of Vladivostok. (NHAN DAN 8 Sep 83 p 4)

Văn Tiến Dũng [VAWN TIEENS ZUNGX]

Member of the Political Bureau of the VCP Central Committee; deputy first secretary of the Central Military Party Committee; minister of National Defense; recently he visited training classes for cadres from various military regions, provinces and cities in the South. (NHAN DAN 7 Sep 83 p 1)

Lê Minh Đảo [LEE MINH DAOF]

*Deputy secretary of the VCP Committee, Ben Tre Province; *chairman of the People's Committee, Ben Tre Province; he was mentioned in an article on military recruitment in Ben Tre Province. (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 26 Aug 83 p 3)

Phan Anh Điền [PHAN ANH DIEENF] aka Ba Khắc [BA KHAWCS]

Deputy director of the physical education and sports service, Ho Chi Minh City; he was interviewed in the cited source about a recent HCMC-Vung Tau bicycle race. (THE DUC THE THAO 10 Sep 83 p 4)

Vương Thị Hiếu [VUWOWNG THIJ HIEEUS]

*Director of the Machinery Planning Institute, Ministry of Agriculture; she was interviewed in the cited source on "Today's Woman." (PHU NU VIET NAM 31 Aug-6 Sep 83 p 2)

Trần Quốc Hoàn [TRAAF QUOOCS HOANF]

Member of the VCP Central Committee; director of the Civil Proselytizing Department of the VCP Central Committee; recently he attended the 6th conference of the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. (THIEU NIEN TIEN PHONG 26 Aug 83 p 2)

Nguyễn Khoa Diệu Hồng [NGUYEENX KHOA ZIEEUJ HOONGF]

Vice chairman of the Vietnam Committee in Support of the Korean People's Struggle for National Reunification; on 7 September 1983 she attended a meeting marking North Korea's 35th National Day. (NHAN DAN 8 Sep 83 p 4)

Vũ Ngọc Huệ [VUX NGOCJ HUEEJ] deceased

Member of the VCP; former deputy director of the Norms Department, Capital Construction Commission; born on 7 July 1899 he/she died on 12 September 1983 in Hanoi. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 83 p 4)

Vũ Quốc Hùng [VUX QUOOCS HUNGF]

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; on 22-30 August 1983 he attended an organization and training conference for HCMCYU cadres. (TIEN PHONG 5-12 Sep 83 p 2)

Nguyễn Văn Huyền [NGUYEENX VAWN HUYEEN]

*Deputy director of the Water Conservancy Service, Hai Hung Province; he wrote about dam protection in answer to a reader's column in the cited source. (NHAN DAN 6 Sep 83 p 2)

Võ Thị Hy [VOX THIJ HY]

*Vice president of the Women's Association, Ben Tre Province; she was mentioned in an article on military recruiting in Ben Tre Province. (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 26 Aug 83 p 3)

Trần Lâm [TRAANF LAAM]

Member of the VCP Central Committee; chairman of the Vietnam-Korea Friendship Association; on 7 September 1983 he made a speech at a meeting marking North Korea's 35th National Day. (NHAN DAN 8 Sep 83 p 1)

Trần Anh Liên [TRAANF ANH LIEEN]

Member of the Secretariat of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions; on 28-30 August 1983 he attended and made a speech at the 3d Binh Tri Thien Trade Union Congress of delegates. (LAO DONG 15 Sep 83 p 2)

Mai Văn Muôn [MAI VAWN MUOON]

Deputy director of the Sports and Physical Education General Department; vice chairman and secretary general of the Vietnam Olympic Committee; on 12 September 1983 he was at Hanoi's airport to greet a group from the World Soccer Federation. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 83 p 4)

Nguyễn Văn Nghi [NGUYEENX VAWN NGHI] *Colonel

Deputy commander, 105th Military Hospital; his letter discussing obstacles overcome by his hospital appeared in the cited source. (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 23 Aug 83 p 3)

Trần Xuân Nhí [TRAANF XUAAN NHIX]

Vice minister of education; recently he attended the 8th Education Trade Union Congress in Nha Trang. (LAO DONG 8 Sep 83 p 2)

Hồ Ngọc Nhượng [HOOF NGOCJ NHUWOWNGF]

Chairman of the People's Committee, Phu Khanh Province; on 22-30 August 1983 he attended an organization and training conference for Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union cadres. (TIEN PHONG 6-12 Sep 83 p 2)

Hoàng Thế Phiệt [HOANGF THEES PHIEETJ]

Deputy director of the River Transport Department, Ministry of Communications and Transportation; he wrote an article about river transportation of coal and grain. (NHAN DAN 8 Sep 83 p 2)

Nguyễn Tiên Phong [NGUYEENX TIEEN PHONG]

Deputy director of the Civil Proselytizing Department of the VCP Central Committee; recently he attended the 6th conference of the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. (THIEU NIEN TIEN PHONG 26 Aug 83 p 2)

Nguyễn Phụng [NGUYEENX PHUNGF]

Director of the Agriculture Service, Hai Hung Province; he wrote an article in the cited source on intensive cultivation in his province. (NHAN DAN 9 Sep 83 p 2)

Lê Quý Quỳnh [LEE QUYS QUYNHF]

President of the Vietnam Beekeepers Association; on 20 August 1983 he departed the SRV to attend the 29th International Beekeepers Association Conference in Hungary. (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 21 Aug 83 p 4)

Nguyễn Đình Thành [NGUYEENX DINHF THANH]

*Head of the Public Security Forces, Ba Dinh Ward, Hanoi; he wrote an article on his forces' recent achievements. (NHAN DAN 7 Sep 83 p 3)

Lê Thị [LEE THI]

*Acting director of the Institute of Philosophy, Vietnam Social Science Commission; recently she attended a conference organized by the Vietnam Social Science Commission. (TRIET HOC No 41 Jun 83 p 163)

Nguyễn Ngọc Triu [NGUYEENX NGOCJ TRIUF]

Member of the Central Committee of the VCP; minister of agriculture; chairman of the Vietnam-Bulgaria Friendship Association; on 5 September 1983 he attended a gathering at the Embassy to mark the 39th anniversary of the victory of the revolution in Bulgaria. (NHAN DAN 6 Sep 83 p 1)

Lê Trang [LEE TRANG]

Deputy director of the Office of the National Assembly and Council of State; on 6 September 1983 he was present when Australian Ambassador John Phillip McCarthy paid a farewell visit to chairman of the Council of State Truong Chinh. (NHAN DAN 7 Sep 83 p 1)

Đương Tdng [ZUWOWNG TUWOWNGF]

Member of the VCP Central Committee; secretary of the VCP Committee, Cao Bang Province; on 6-7 September 1983 he attended the 9th Cao Bang Trade Union Congress of delegates. (LAO DONG 15 Sep 83 p 2)

[This individual was also reported as Vương Dương Tuong [VUWOWNG ZUWOWNG TUWOWNGF] in the same positions.]

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